

VOLUME #4

10-29-85

TO

2-14-86

OCRACOKE IS., N.C.

TO

ST. PETE, FL



College Ruled White Paper
Single Subject

Dennison National Company, Holyoke, MA 01041

33-502

80 Sheets

7³/₄ x 5

160

9220

10-29-85

35mi

I MANAGED NOT TO GET BLOWN OFF THE BRIDGE BETWEEN BODIE & HATTERAS ISLANDS, THOUGH I DID GET BOUNCED AROUND A BIT.

I HAD THE WIND AT LEAST PARTIALLY AT MY BACK ALL DAY & SO HAD EASY PEDALLING. ONCE OR TWICE I TURNED UP INTO THE WIND & GOT A TASTE OF WHAT GOING NORTH WOULD BE LIKE. I WOULD HAVE HAD TO FLOG MYSELF SUN-UP TO SUNDOWN TO GET AS FAR. I GUESS THAT'S ONE MORE BLESSING I CAN COUNT.

I STOPPED TO TAKE A LOOK AT CAPE HATTERAS LIGHTHOUSE, THE TALLEST BRICK LIGHTHOUSE IN THE U.S. I COULDN'T GET INSIDE BECAUSE IT WAS BEING ^{RESTORED} ~~REPAIRED~~, WHICH WAS A BIT OF A DISAPPOINTMENT.

I TOOK THE 17th FERRY OF MY TRIP TO OCRACOKE IS, WHERE I'M ^{CAMPING} ~~STAYING~~ TONIGHT. IT WAS A SHITTY DAY FOR A FERRY RIDE, BUT IT WAS FREE.

(9280) (161)

I DECIDED NOT TO PAY ANOTHER \$8 TO CAMP & AM FREE CAMPING IN THE BUSHES OFF ONE OF THE JEEP TRAILS ON THE ISLAND. IT WAS PRETTY HARD TO FIND A DECENT SPOT WITHOUT CACTUS (CACTI, REALLY) GROWING EVERYWHERE, SINCE I'M SURROUNDED BY SAND DUNES.

(10:30-85)

(60MI)

IT FINALLY STARTED RAINING. IT'S LOOKED LIKE RAIN FOR QUITE A WHILE & AT LEAST IT'S ONLY LIGHT DRIZZLE (FOR NOW ANYWAY).

I COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOUT THE SWITCH BACK TO ~~STANDARD~~ STANDARD TIME ON SUNDAY & LUCKILY I DIDN'T GET TO THE FERRY TERMINAL AT OCRACOE TOO EARLY & HAVE TO STAND AROUND IN THE RAIN & MUCK.

ONCE ON BOARD I SET ABOUT DOING A FEW CHORES & ON OCCASION SOMEONE WOULD STOP BY & ASK ABOUT MY TRIP. BY THE TIME I'D TALKED TO THE THIRD PERSON THE ENTIRE FERRY SEEMED TO KNOW WHAT I WAS UP TO & I WAS ALMOST BESEIGED WITH

(161) (9280)

QUESTIONS & PRAISE, ETC... IT'S SORT OF NICE TO BE MADE A FUSS OF ON A RAINY DAY.

LITTLE HAPPENED FROM THE TIME I DOCKED AT CEDAR ISLAND ^{WHERE} I CAMPED (ABOUT 10 MILES WEST OF MOREHEAD CITY, NC), EXCEPT THE RAIN KEPT INCREASING STEADILY.

TO MINIMIZE THE AMOUNT OF DISCOMFORT (WHICH I KNEW WAS INEVITABLE IN MY BIVY SACK IN A HEAVY RAIN), I JURY-RIGGED A SHELTER USING MY TARP. I TOOK OFF MY TOE CLIP STRAPS TO USE TO SECURE ONE EDGE OF THE TARP TO MY BIKE, I SECURED ANOTHER CORNER TO A SMALL SHRUB USING A TWIST-TIE, GUYED OUT THE REMAINING CORNER WITH THE NYLON STRAP THAT I USE TO SECURE STUFF TO MY REAR RACK, & FINALLY PROPPED UP THE END NEAREST THE HEAD OF MY BIVY WITH A STICK TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF CLEARANCE I HAD UNDERNEATH.

AFTER ALL THAT I HAD ABOUT 15" OF CLEARANCE & HAVING TO SHED ALL MY RAINWEAR

(9280)

(161)

BEFORE CLIMBING IN, GETTING COLDER & WETTER EVEN THOUGH I WAS ALREADY THOROUGHLY SOAKED MERELY ADDED TO MY SENSE OF FRUSTRATION. THINGS DID SEEM A BIT CHEERIER ONCE I FINALLY GOT INSIDE, BUT HAVING A FEW POUNDS OF SAND FROM THE NIGHT BEFORE CLINGING TO MY WET LEGS WAS A SENSATION I COULD LIVE WITHOUT.

A MAINTAINED A REASONABLE DEGREE OF COMFORT DESPITE HORDS OF MOSQUITOES ~~FOR~~ ABOUT TWO HOURS. ABOUT THEN THE FOOT OF MY SLEEPING BAG WAS STARTING TO GET SOAKED & I KNEW THE BATTLE WAS LOST & IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THINGS GOT REALLY MISERABLE. BY THE END OF THE NIGHT IT WAS TOTALLY SOAKED ON THE BOTTOM FROM HEAD TO TOE, AS WERE MY CLOTHES. IT WAS VERY UNCOMFORTABLE TO STAY IN ONE PLACE BECAUSE WITH THE DWINDLING DAYLIGHT I HAD BEEN LYING DOWN TOO LONG & IT WAS JUST AS UNDESIRABLE TO MOVE AS I'D ~~BE~~ INEVITABLY SATURATE SOME PART OF

(162)

(9345)

MY CLOTHING THAT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN DRY. STILL, I'VE SURVIVED, SO WHAT THE HELL?

(10-31-85)

(65m)

HALLOWEEN!

THE RAIN HAS FINALLY STOPPED & I'VE HAD TIME TO TAKE A SHOWER AT THE MARINA IN SWANSBORO (#1, UNLIMITED HOT WATER) & WASH ALL MY GEAR AT A LAUNDROMAT. I MIGHT AS WELL BE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE WEATHER HOLDING & EVEN IF IT DOESN'T AT LEAST I'LL BE COMFORTABLE FOR A FEW HOURS TONIGHT.

THE LADY AT THE LAUNDROMAT WAS KIND ENOUGH TO SHOW ME A PICTURE & ARTICLE ABOUT A LOCAL GUY THAT JUST GOT HERE FROM CALIFORNIA. HE HAD A SONY TV, CASSETTE PLAYER & LAMP FOR HIS TENT WITH HIM THE WHOLE WAY ACROSS!

~~THE RAIN HAS FINALLY STOPPED & I'VE HAD TIME TO TAKE A SHOWER AT THE MARINA IN SWANSBORO (#1, UNLIMITED HOT WATER) & WASH ALL MY GEAR AT A LAUNDROMAT.~~

IT LOOKS AS THOUGH IT'LL BE A GOOD NIGHT

9410

163

TONIGHT, BUT IT'S HUMID & VERY UNCOMFORTABLE
^{MY SLEEPING BAG,}
IN MY BIVY SACK, EVEN LYING ON TOP OF ~~IT~~. AND
I CAN'T LEAVE IT UNZIPPED LONG BECAUSE THE
MOSQUITOES ARE THICKER THAN COW SHIT &
EVEN THOUGH I'VE GOT BUG REPELLANT ALL OVER
ME, IT DOESN'T KEEP 'EM AWAY FOR LONG.

11-1-85

65mi

A NEW MONTH, BUT THE SAME OLD SHIT
IN THAT DAMN BODY BAG! IT'S SYNONOMOUS
WITH MISERY, DISCOMFORT, FRUSTRATION, & UTTER
& COMPLETE DISGUST. I THINK I'LL FIGURE OUT
THE ONE PERSON I LIKE LEAST IN THE WORLD &
GIVE IT TO HIM AS A PRESENT ONCE I REACH
FLORIDA.

THE DAMN RAIN STARTED AGAIN LATE LAST
NIGHT & ONCE AGAIN SLEEPING IN THE BIVY
WAS LIKE SLEEPING IN A BATHTUB COVERED IN
SARAN WRAP FROM ~~HEAD~~^{NECK} TO ANKLES WITH
THE FAUCET LEAKING ON YOUR HEAD & FEET
SIMULTANEOUSLY.

I ~~COULD~~ LACK THE WORDS TO ACCURATELY
DESCRIBE THE PURGATORY OF SLEEPING IN

163

9410

THIS KING SIZE BAGGIE & WALLOWING IN THE
SWEAT & DAMPNESS FOR NIGHTS ON END WITH
THE DAMN THING CLINGING TO ME AS IF I
HAD BEEN ~~PUT~~^{PUT} THROUGH A SHRINK-WRAP
MACHINE THAT HAD RUN AMUCK.

SO SOMETIME TODAY I'LL BE BLESSED
WITH THE GOOD FORTUNE OF VISITING YET AN-
OTHER LAUNDROMAT & WHILING AWAY MY MORNING
WATCHING MY THINGS SPIN AROUND IN A CIRCLE
FOR AN HOUR. AT LEAST I APPEARS THAT THIS
FOUL WEATHER IS HEADED NORTH & I MAY BE
ABLE TO CYCLE OUT OF IT BY EARLY AFTERNOON.

GETTING WET ALL THE TIME IS NO BIG DEAL,
BUT I FEEL A LOT BETTER IF I CAN VENT MY
FRUSTRATION NOW & AGAIN. LAST NIGHT REALLY
HACKED ME OFF BECAUSE IT GOT ME OFF
GUARD & THE BOOK I'VE BEEN READING GOT
SOAKED, ALONG WITH A FEW OTHER LESS
IMPORTANT ITEMS.

WELL, I GOT A SHOWER AT THE 'Y' & MANAGED
TO GET MY GEAR DRY FOR ONLY 50¢ AT A LAUNDRO-

(9410) (163)

MAT IN WILMINGTON; THINGS SEEMED TO GET A BIT BETTER. I ALSO BOUGHT ABOUT 30' OF NYLON CORD WHICH I'VE USED TO SUSPEND MY TARP BETWEEN A FEW TREES IN WHAT I HOPE IS MY BEST ATTEMPT TO STAY DRY. I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE I CAN DO SHORT OF BUYING A LARGER TARP.

I'M GETTING PRETTY SICK OF THE SELECTION OF BAKE GOODS I'VE FOUND SINCE MARYLAND - A LOT HIGH SUGAR, REFINED FLOUR CRAP! I CAN'T FIND BRAN MUFFINS ANYWHERE - I BET THE AVERAGE CAROLINIAN ONLY SHITS ABOUT ONCE A WEEK! ONCE I GET TO FLORIDA I'LL EAT SALADS FOR A MONTH.

I'M CAMPED A FEW FEET FROM HWY. 17, ABOUT A MILE OR TWO NORTH OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

I'M STARTING TO NOTICE A BIT OF A CHANGE AMONG THE ELIGIBLE FEMALES I'VE MET RECENTLY. FOR INSTANCE, WHEN CHECKING IN AT THE 'Y' TODAY THE GIRL AT THE COUNTER TREATED ME LIKE ANY OTHER SCHMOCK, BUT AFTER A GUY I HAD

(164) (9460)

~~RE~~TALKED TO HAD TOLD HER WHAT I WAS UP TO, SHE ~~PROBABLY~~ LIT UP WHEN I CAME OUT OF THE SHOWER; COULDN'T FIND OUT ENOUGH ABOUT ME. MAYBE I'M A CELEBRITY? MAYBE THE GIRLS DID BEAT A PATH TO AUNT PAT'S DOOR AFTER I LEFT BELLEVUE?

(11-2-85)

(50 mi)

AN UNINSPIRING DAY, TO SAY THE LEAST. IT HASN'T RAINED (YET), BUT IT'S BEEN OVERCAST WITH THICK GREY CLOUDS ALL DAY & SO, PRETTY HARD TO GET EXCITED ABOUT CYCLING.

I HAVE MANAGED TO BE PRODUCTIVE, HOWEVER. I'VE BOUGHT A NEW TIRE & REPLACED MY WORN ONE, THOROUGHLY CLEANED MY CHAIN (IT'S SHOT - I HOPE IT HOLDS TOGETHER FOR ANOTHER 800 MILES OR SO), BOUGHT THREE USED BOOKS, WROTE FIVE POSTCARDS, & READ EXTENSIVELY, SO AS TO BE ABLE TO JETISON MY CURRENT BOOK WHICH IS TOTALLY SOAKED & WEIGHS AT LEAST TWO POUNDS.

I'M OFF IN THE BUSHES CAMPING AGAIN.

9525



ABOUT TWO MILES SOUTH OF PAWLEY ISLAND, SC. I SURVIVED THE RAIN LAST NIGHT WITHOUT BEING DRENCHED; SO HAVE RIGGED MY TARP IN A SIMILAR MANNER IN HOPES OF TWO CONSECUTIVE NIGHTS IN COMFORT.

11-3-85

65 mi

I'VE KIND OF HAD THE 'BLAMS' THE LAST DAY OR SO. PARTLY BECAUSE OF: 1) THE WEATHER, 2) THE LACK OF SIGHTSEEING, 3) HAVING TO ^{STAY} SO I DON'T GET TO MY NEXT MAILSTOP BEFORE MY MAIL DOES, 4) NOT HAVING ANYONE TO VISIT, 5) OR RIDE WITH, 6) HAVING TO SPEND MORE THAN HALF THE DAY IN MY BNSACK. OF COURSE NONE OF THOSE THINGS ARE PERMANENT CONDITIONS, SO THINGS WILL IMPROVE SOON ENOUGH.

I'VE COME TO A CONCLUSION ABOUT THE EAST COAST SOUTH OF D.C.: IT'S FLAT & BORING! BUT THE REASON I'M OUT HERE DOING THIS IS TO FIND THAT OUT FOR MYSELF, SO I GUESS THAT'S PART OF THE GAME.

I'M CAMPING A FEW MILES SOUTH OF



9575

MONKEYS CORNER, SC (I HOPE - I MAY HAVE MADE A WRONG TURN) IN PLACE THAT'S DEFINITELY IN CONTENTION FOR 'WORST CAMPSITE' AWARD. I'LL BE IN BAD SHAPE IF IT RAINS AS I'VE HAD TO THROW THE TARP ON THE WET GROUND TONIGHT. OF COURSE A VISIT TO THE LAUNDROMAT MAY SPICE UP MY DAY TOMORROW.

11-4-85

50 mi

NO CHANGE SINCE YESTERDAY, EXCEPT THE WIND PICKED UP & STARTED BLOWING IN MY FACE. I'VE GOT THINGS SET UP FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS SO I CAN QUIT FARTING AROUND. I'LL HIT MY MAILSTOP AT SURREY, GA AS PLANNED.

AFTER THAT I'M THINKING OF TRYING TO FIND THE HOSTEL AT BROWSWICK SO I CAN SLEEP INDOORS WITH ELECTRIC LIGHTS FOR ONE NIGHT. THAT WAY I CAN MAKE A COUPLE OF PHONE CALLS WHEN THE RATES ARE LOWER & I CAN REPLY TO ANY MAIL I RECEIVE.

I GOT SOAKED FAIRLY WELL LAST NIGHT IN

(9635) (167)

IN BRIEF BUT HEAVY RAINS, BUT I'M USED TO THE FRUSTRATION OF IT NOW. I'VE THE TAIP UP AGAIN TONIGHT. I'M NEAR WALTER-BORO IN A CLUMP OF PINE TREES THAT, UNLIKE MOST PLACES NEAR HERE, AREN'T STRANGLED BY DENSE UNDERGROWTH.

(11-5-85)

(60mi)

HURRAY! IT DIDN'T RAIN LAST NIGHT. AND NOT ONLY THAT, IT'S BEEN A BEAUTIFUL SUNNY DAY - NOT A CLOUD IN THE SKY! THE ONLY BAD PARTS ARE HEADWINDS & THE COLD. I RODE IN FLANNEL SHIRT, GLOVES, PANTS NEARLY ALL DAY.

ONCE AGAIN, I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING OF INTEREST TODAY. I HIT ONE STRETCH ON HWY 278 THAT WAS 20 MILES OF THE STRAIGHTEST, FLATTEST ROAD YOU'LL EVER SEE, & THAT WAS THE BIG EXCITEMENT FOR THE DAY.

I WAS HAPPY THAT I WAS ABLE TO CASH A \$200 MONEY ORDER AT ALLENDALE, SC TODAY. IT WAS A SMALL TOWN, THOUGH THE LARGEST

(168) (9715)

I'LL BE IN FOR A FEW DAYS. I WAS SURPRISED THEY HAD ENOUGH CASH.

THE COOL TEMPERATURES WERE A GREAT RELIEF LAST NIGHT. IT WAS FINALLY POSSIBLE TO BE BUNDLED UP IN MY SLEEPING BAG WITHOUT DRIPPING SWEAT.

I'M IN GEORGIA NOW, I BELIEVE IT'S MY 25TH STATE SO FAR. I'M ABOUT FIVE MILES NORTH OF SYLVANIA, ONCE MORE CAMPING AMONG THE TREES. MY CAMPSITES ALL SEEM TO LOOK ALIKE ANYMORE - I'M NOT SURE WHAT I'LL DO IF I HAVE TO FIND SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

(11-6-85)

(80mi)

ANOTHER BRIGHT, SUNSHINEY DAY! WOW!

I FINALLY QUIT FARTIN' AROUND & MANAGED TO PUT TOGETHER SOME DECENT MILEAGE, THANKS TO THE ROLLING HILLS WHICH KEPT ME FROM GETTING BORED. AN ANONYMOUS CYCLIST WHO MADE THE MISTAKE OF BROWNING BY ME WITHOUT SAYING 'HOWDY'. I GOT TO CRANKING AS HARD I COULD & PASSED HIM

9715

168

(I SAID 'HOWDY') I DIDN'T SLOW DOWN TIL HE WAS AT LEAST THREE MILES BEHIND ME I HAD DONE ABOUT 15 MILES IN AROUND FORTY MINUTES OR SO.

AFTER THAT, I JUST POKED ALONG, I TOOK MY TIME. RIGHT NOW I'M ONLY FIFTEEN MILES FROM SURRENCY, MY MAIL, SO IF IT'S ANOTHER CLEAR DAY TOMORROW I SHOULD BE THERE BY 9-9:30AM WHICH WILL LEAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO MAKE IT TO BRUNSWICK BY EVENING.

THIS NICE WEATHER IS BRINGING MY TAN BACK REAL FAST. I WAS FADED PRETTY FAST AFTER THE TIME OFF IN D.C. I ALL THE RAIN IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS.

I CREATED QUITE A STIR IN SYLVANIA WHILE STOPPING AT AN IGA FOR BREAKFAST. THE CASHIER ~~ORDER~~ ASKED WHERE I HAD CYCLED FROM, I DIDN'T SEEM TOO IMPRESSED, BUT ONCE I LEFT SHE MUST HAVE TOLD EVERYONE IN THE STORE BECAUSE PEOPLE STARTED COMING OUT IN DRINKS TO

169

9795

SEE FOR THEMSELVES.

11-7-85

80m.

DAMN, WHAT A GREAT DAY! MORE BRIGHT SUNNY SKIES, I LOTS OF MAIL! AND IT'S GETTING WARMER, TOO.

I GOT LETTERS FROM LEAH, MAUREEN, I THE GALS AT WORK (THE LETTERS FROM WORK ARE DWINDLING DOWN TO THE "FAITHFUL FEW" THAT SAW ME OFF AT THE SPOT ON MY LAST DAY).

WHEN I PICKED UP MY MAIL THE CLERK WAS REAL EXCITED, I TOLD ME TO STOP IN AT THE JESUP NEWS-SENTINEL (OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT). I WAS A LITTLE STAND-OFFISH ABOUT SEEMING LIKE I WAS BEGGING FOR ATTENTION, I PUBLICITY, BUT SINCE THE GUY WAS SO INSISTENT I DECIDED TO DO IT.

IT WASN'T ONE OF THE MOST ENJOYABLE OF INTERVIEWS, BUT YOU TAKE WHAT YOU GET. THE WOMAN SAID I DIDN'T LOOK LIKE A BIKER (SHE DIDN'T LOOK VERY CLOSELY AT MY LEGS!!) SHE ASKED ME ALL KINDS OF

9795

164

QUESTIONS I DIDN'T WRITE ANYTHING DOWN. I GOT THE FEELING IT'S ONLY GOING TO A PICTURE OF ME; A "CYCLIST PASSES THROUGH TOWN" CAPTION, BUT THAT'S O.K. AT LEAST THE INTERVIEW WAS SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR A CHANGE.

I SAW MY FIRST LIVE ARMADILLO TODAY, WHICH WAS OCCASION ENOUGH TO TAKE MY FIRST PICTURES OF GEORGIA. I GOT WITHIN A COUPLE OF FEET OF THE LITTLE GUY; HE COULDN'T HAVE CARED LESS - HE JUST ~~KEPT~~ ^{KEPT} ROOTIN' AROUND IN THE GRASS; LOOKIN' FOR BUGS.

I ARRIVED AT THE YOUTH HOSTEL NEAR BRUNSWICK, GA AROUND FIVE. IT'S GREAT! A COUPLE OF GEODESIC DOMES; A COUPLE OF TREE HOUSES. PLUS A POND, SWIMMIN' HOLE, & PALM TREES - WHAT A BLAST! I MAY JUST HANG OUT HERE FOR A FEW DAYS.

I TOOK TIME TO CALL DOUG & JENNY (TO GET THEIR CORRECT ADDRESS) & MAUREEN

170

9795

SAES STILL HEMMIN' & HAWIN' ABOUT COMING TO FLORIDA, SO WE'LL SEE HOW THINGS STAND ONCE I GET THERE. I'LL HAVE TO SEND HOME SOME MONEY FOR THAT CALL, IT'LL BE SURE TO RAISE MOM'S EYEBROWS.

I'M STAYING WITH A GUY FROM COLUMBIA, ONE FROM ENGLAND, ANOTHER FROM AUSTRALIA, ONE FROM CANADA; A GIRL FROM D.C.. THERE A PRETTY FUN BUNCH. EARLIER WE TOOK TURNS "LEVITATING" EACH OTHER. ^(FOUR OF US) ^(ONLY AT A TIME) ACTUALLY WE LIFTED EACH OTHER OVER OUR HEADS USING ONLY TWO FINGERS UNDER THEIR KNEES & ARMPITS.

(11-8-85)

NO MILES

I'M AT THE "HOSTEL IN THE TREES" IN BRUNSWICK FOR ONE MORE NIGHT. I HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED ON STAYING, BUT AFTER LAST NIGHT WAS THINKING OF PUSHING ON.

LATE IN THE EVENING, KELLY, A GIRL FROM ATLANTA SHOWED UP AFTER WORKING AT A RESTAURANT IN TOWN. SHE'S SOMEWHAT TYPICAL OF "SOUTHERN GIRLS" THAT I'VE MET ON AIR FORCE BASES;

9795

170

ARMY POSTS: OBSESSED WITH HERSELF, PICKING
& CHOOSING (& DEFENDING) "OLD FASHIONED VALUES"
(BUT ONLY THOSE THAT SUIT HER AT ANY GIVEN
TIME), & ABSOLUTELY VICIOUS IF SHE FEELS SHE
MAY HAVE BEEN INSULTED.

OF COURSE THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED LAST
NIGHT. I OPENED MY BIG MOUTH & MADE A
COMMENT THAT SHE THOUGHT WAS DIRECTED
AT HER (I'D ONLY MET HER LESS THAN AN
HOUR EARLIER) & SHIT! - THE FUR STARTED
FLYING. SO TODAY I'M KEEPING A LOW
PROFILE IN HOPES OF BEING ABLE TO RELAX FOR
A WHILE & DUCKING THE "CURSE OF THE SOUTH"
AT ALL COSTS.

I'M FINALLY GETTING SOME GOOD GRUB.
I BOUGHT ENOUGH SALAD STUFF TO LAST AT
LEAST TWO DAYS, PLUS SPAGHETTI & CHEESE &
A FEW OTHER GOODIES. AT 15/NIGHT I
WOULDN'T MIND STAYIN' HERE FOR A FEW DAYS
& RELAXING & EATIN' GOOD FOOD FOR A CHANGE.

171

9795

11-9-85

NO MILES

SO FAR IT'S BEEN A GOOD DAY, & THINGS
SHOULDN'T CHANGE AS EVENING WEARS ON.

PABLO, THE HOSTEL WARDEN (HE'S COLOMBIAN)
PASSED AROUND SOME SUGAR CANE FOR EVERYONE
TO TRY. IT WASN'T BAD IF YOU LIKE CHEWING
GUM, BUT A BIT TOO PULPY, REALLY. AFTER YOU SUCK
THE SUGAR OUT OF IT, IT TASTES LIKE YOU'RE
SUCKING ON A TREE.

A LOCAL GUY CAME BY & DONATED A SKINNED,
DRESSED 5 1/2' RATTLESNAKE (EASTERN DIAMONDBACK
TO BE PRECISE) THAT HOPEFULLY WE WILL BARBEQUE
TONIGHT. I SAY HOPEFULLY BECAUSE NOT EVERYONE
IS VERY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT DOING SO, SO PLANS
MAY FALL THROUGH.

NOT MUCH ELSE HAPPENED TODAY, EXCEPT I
SAW GARY (AN AUSTRALIAN TURNED CANADIAN)
A HAND BLEEDING HIS BRAKES, BUT THAT DIDN'T
LAST LONG AS HE BROKE A BRAKE HOSE NIPPLE
SHORTLY AFTER HE STARTED.

THE ONLY THING WORTH MENTIONING THIS EVENING

9835

172

WAS THAT I MET TWO GIRLS FROM SAVANNAH, HELEN / ROSEANN, THAT MADE ME THINK TWICE ABOUT THE WAY I WAS BEGINNING TO STEREO-TYPE SOUTHERN WOMEN. THEY WERE INCREDIBLY NICE; I DIDN'T SEEM ANYTHING LIKE KELLY, WHO PISSED ME OFF A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO. IT PAYS TO KEEP AN OPEN MIND.

11-10-85

40mi

I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO END UP STAYING AT THE HOSTEL ONE MORE NIGHT, BUT ABOUT MID-MORNING IT STARTED TO SEEM AS THOUGH MOVING ON WAS THE THING TO DO.

I WISH I HAD STUCK AROUND THE HOSTEL AN HOUR OR TWO LONGER THAN I DID. BY LEAVING WHEN I DID I MANAGED TO END UP JUST INSIDE THE FLORIDA BORDER WHEN IT WAS TIME TO SET UP CAMP.—WHAT A BUMMER.

I STOPPED AT A COUPLE OF PLACES & WAS ALMOST MUGGED BY VICIOUS MOSQUITOES. I FINALLY PUT ON SOME INSECT REPELLANT & SNAPPED MY BIVY & SLEEPING

173 9900

BAG OUT AS QUICK AS POSSIBLE & DAVE IN. OF COURSE NOW I'M BEING BITTEN OCCASSIONALLY THROUGH THE BIVY (IT'S TOO HOT TO BE INSIDE THE SLEEPING BAG); I'VE DISCOVERED THAT I NEED TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR TICKS AS I FOUND ONE ON MY LEG WHICH BOUGHT A TICKET TO BUG HEAVEN BEFORE HE DUG INTO ME.

11-11-85

65mi

THERE'S NO DOUBT I'M IN FLORIDA. IT WAS 70° AT 9:00 & 80° BY 10:00; HOPEFULLY THE CLOUDS ROLLING OFF OF THE OCEAN WILL KEEP IT FROM GETTING ANY HOTTER.

I HAD A PRETTY UNCOMFORTABLE NIGHT IN MY BODY BAG. I MANAGED TO SWEAT OFF ALL MY BUG REPELLANT, SO I WAS VISCIOUSLY ATTACKED THE MOMENT THAT I CLIMBERED OUT INTO THE MORNING FOG.

I'LL TRY TO FIND JEAN-YVES & DIANE (A COUPLE FROM QUÉBEC THAT I MET IN D.C.) & STAY WITH THEM AT ANASTASIA STATE PARK IN ST. AUGUSTINE WHERE HOPEFULLY THE

9900

173

MOSQUITOES ARE UNDER CONTROL.

A LUCKY AFTERNOON. I HAVEN'T FOUND JEAN-YVES; DIANE, BUT WHILE SIGHTSEEING AT CASTILLO DE SAN MARCOS IN ST AUGUSTINE I MET STAN THOMPSON WHO HAS INVITED ME TO HAVE DINNER & CAMP OUT IN HIS FRONT YARD.

STAN IS 56 & HAS DONE A BIT OF CYCLING & A LOT OF TRAVELING. ~~THE OTHER~~ NIGHT GERRY GEORGE, ONE OF THE GUYS AT THE HOSTEL, HAD TOLD ME THAT I WOULD BE ILL-ADVISED TO TRAVEL THROUGH INDIA, THOUGH HE'S NEVER DONE IT HIMSELF (THOUGH HE ~~WAS~~ HAS BEEN IN NEPAL). NOW STAN IS TELLING ME WHAT I'VE GOTTEN FROM SOME OF THE BOOKS I'VE READ, THAT THE INDIANS WOULD BE AMAZED TO SEE ME & THE ONE PROBLEM I MIGHT HAVE WOULD BE ANSWERING ALL THE QUESTIONS I WOULD BE ASKED. HE CLAIMED THAT I WOULD MOST OFTEN BE ASKED HOW OLD I AM, WHICH IS PRETTY COOL.

CASTILLO SAN MARCOS WAS PRETTY NEAT. IT

173

9900

WAS BUILT IN 1565 BY THE SPANISH & IS THE OLDEST MASONRY FORT IN THE U.S. IT'S MADE OUT OF COQUINA - A TYPE OF SEDIMENTARY ROCK MADE OF TINY SEASHELLS.

RUNNING INTO STAN HAS TURNED OUT TO BE A GOOD THING. HE HAS WARNED ME TO WATCH OUT FOR FIRE ANTS WHICH HAVE BEEN IMPORTED FROM SOUTH AMERICA & WILL SWARM ALL OVER A PERSON CAUSING SEVERE DISCOMFORT AT THE VERY LEAST. QUITE OFTEN I'VE CAMPED TOO CLOSE TO ANT HILLS WITHOUT ANY CONCERN BECAUSE THEY USUALLY LEAVE YOU ALONE.

HE WAS THOUGHTFUL ENOUGH TO SET UP HIS A-FRAME MOUNTAIN TENT IN HIS BACKYARD AFTER I TOLD HIM OF ALL THE PROBLEMS I'D HAD WITH MY BIVY. IT LOOKS ALMOST AS GOOD AS HAVING A HOTEL ROOM.

I ALSO MET HIS WIFE, DELORES, & DAUGHTER, JAKE, & HAD DINNER WITH THEM: A RICE & CHEESE DISH WITH SALAD & GREEN BEANS WITH SOME GREAT PEPPERMINT TEA AFTERWARDS.

9955 174

11-12-85

55mi

ANOTHER HOT, MOSTLY SUNNY DAY - 80°+!

I GOT A LAZY START TODAY - 12:00PM,
DUE TO TALKING FOR QUITE A WHILE WITH
STAN & DOLORES & WITH ANOTHER FELLOW I
MET AT THE CASTILLO.

I STOPPED AT FT. MATANZAS (SPANISH
FOR SLAUGHTERS, DUE TO THE FATE OF THE
FRENCH THERE) WHICH WAS LITTLE MORE THAN A
WATCHTOWER FOR GUARDING ONE OF THE INLETS
LEADING TO CASTILLO DE SAN MARCOS.

OTHER THAN THAT, IT WAS A TYPICAL DAY
OF BORING BEACH ROADS - MILES OF HOTELS &
RESTAURANTS & TOURIST TRAPS.

I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT FLORIDA DRIVERS ARE
PRETTY BAD, BUT SO FAR THEY HAVEN'T BEEN
ANY WORSE THAN IN OTHER STATES. THEY DO
DRIVE A BIT CLOSE THOUGH.

IM STAYING AT THE HOSTEL IN DAYTONA
BEACH IN SPITE OF THE \$9.45/NIGHT COST.
SO FAR IT'S NOT TOO BAD SINCE I'VE GOT AIR
CONDITIONING & COLOR TV & IM ALONE.

175 10030

A JAPANESE MOTORCYCLIST JUST CAME
IN; AFTER TALKING FOR A FEW MINUTES GAVE ME
A "HA-CHI-MAKI(?)" OR JAPANESE HEADBAND
WITH "MUST VICTORY" EMBLAZONED ON IT IN
JAPANESE. HIS NAME IS TED & HAS SPENT
TWO MONTHS IN THE STATES & PLANS ON CIR-
CUMNAVIGATING THE COUNTRY & WILL RETURN
HOME IN DECEMBER. I ~~COULDN'T~~ DIDN'T QUITE
CATCH HIS REAL NAME, ^{SINCE} ~~BECAUSE~~ HE'S LEARNED
TO MAKE IT EASY ON US AMERICANS BY USING
A NICKNAME.

11-13-85

75mi

I GAVE TED GRANDMA'S ADDRESS LAST
NIGHT IN HOPES THAT HE WOULD STOP BY AFTER
HE VISITS KEY WEST. ~~THE~~

IT'S BEEN A GOOD DAY & IT SEEMS AS THOUGH
QUITE A LOT HAS HAPPENED.

WHILE CYCLING THROUGH ARLANDALE, AN OLD
MAN STOPPED ME ASKED IF I'D BE INTERESTED
IN A JOB LOOKING AFTER HIS KENNELS WHICH
PAID ROOM & BOARD. I ACTUALLY CONSIDERED

(10030) (175)

IT FOR A MOMENT, BUT DECIDED THAT PEOPLE WERE EXPECTING ME & THOUGHT IT BEST TO PUSH ON. BUT I TOOK DOWN HIS ADDRESS & AGREED TO PASS IT ON IF I FOUND SOMEONE INTERESTED.

A COUPLE HOURS DOWN THE ROAD I RAN INTO A FELLOW NAMED DAVE FROM ORLANDO WHO WAS PEDALLING TO JACKSONVILLE. HE ONLY HAD ONE LEG DUE TO BEING HIT BY A TRAIN LAST YEAR & WAS GOING THERE TO VISIT AN AUNT, & LOOK FOR WORK BECAUSE NOBODY WOULD HIRE HIM IN ORLANDO. I GAVE HIM THE ADDRESS IN ALLANDALE, BUT I'M NOT SURE IF HE WAS VERY INTERESTED IN IT.

I HAD MY SEVENTH FLAT & WENT OVER 10,000 MILES AT OSTEEN TODAY - TWO MILESTONES AT ONCE!

I'M STAYING AT WHAT IS SUPPOSED TO BE A YOUTH HOSTEL IN ORLANDO TONIGHT, THOUGH IT'S ACTUALLY THE "FLORIDA SPA". THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANY DORM ROOMS AVAILABLE, SO I'M SLEEPING IN A PRIVATE ROOM & PAYING \$14/

(176) (10030)

NIGHT - OUCH! AT LEAST IT'S VERY CONVENIENT TO GET TO EPCOT FROM HERE & SO IS PROBABLY WORTH THE PRICE. IT'S RUN BY AN ISRAELI COUPLE. SHE'S REAL SWEET & IS SO HELPFUL THAT SHE'S ALMOST ANNOYING & HE IS VERY NICE & COMPLIMENTED ME BY SAYING THAT HE RESPECTS ME FOR WHAT I AM DOING.

THERE ARE TWO OTHER TRAVELLERS HERE (THE OTHER PEOPLE ARE SORT OF SEMI-PERMANENT) - EDNA FROM ISRAEL & STEVE FROM LONDON. STEVE IS LEAVING TOMORROW & EDNA IS GOING TO EPCOT & SO I'LL TRY TO SEE IT WITH HER IF THAT SEEMS REASONABLE.

(11-14-85)

(NO MILES)

I DON'T KNOW IF THERE'S MUCH TO WRITE ABOUT TODAY, BUT I HAD A GREAT TIME!

I TRIED NOT TO NOTICE WHEN I PAID \$19⁰⁰ FOR A DAY AT EPCOT - A PRICE I THOUGHT WAS TOO STEEP, BUT IT WAS WORTH IT.

EDNA (FROM NEAR TEL AVIV) & I SPENT THE DAY TOGETHER & MANAGED TO SEE ALL OF FUTUREWORLD & A LOT OF THE HIGHLIGHTS

10145

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OF WORLD SHOWCASE BEFORE HAVING TO CATCH THE BUS BACK HOME. WE ORIGINALLY THOUGHT THAT BE LEFT AT EPCOT FROM 8:30 TO 5:00 WAS TOO LONG, BUT LATER WOULD HAVE LIKED TO STAY FOR THE REST OF THE EVENING AS WELL.

THERE WAS TOO MUCH THERE TO DESCRIBE IT ALL, BUT ~~THE~~ THE MAIN EXHIBITS IN FUTURE-WORLD CONSISTED OF A RIDE THROUGH ANIMATED SCENES; FAST DIFFERENT VIDEO SCENES; A FEW ALSO HAD MOVIES; 'HANDS-ON' EXHIBITS OF COMPUTER GAMES, ETC...

IN WORLD SHOWCASE THERE WERE ONE OR TWO COUNTRIES WITH 'FUTUREWORLD-TYPE' EXHIBITS, BUT THE MAIN ATTRACTIONS WERE THE SIDEWALK PERFORMERS - ACROBATS, MUSICIANS, ETC...

11-15-85

115MI

THINGS DIDN'T HAPPEN THE WAY I'D PLANNED TODAY, BUT AT LEAST I MADE IT TO GRANDMA'S ~~80~~ IN ONE PIECE.

I ORIGINALLY THOUGHT OF RIDING 95 MILES TO THE M'INTOSH'S HOUSE IN TAMPA, BUT WHEN I CALLED THEY WEREN'T HOME, SO I DECIDED TO

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POSITION TO GRANDMAS

ON THE WAY THERE I RAN INTO A CAR DRIVEN BY A BLACK WOMEN. SHE WAS PULLING OUT OF A SHOPPING CENTER; DIDN'T EVEN LOOK MY WAY WHEN SHE PULLED OUT. I YELLED "HEY! HEY! HEY!" WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN ENOUGH TO ATTRACT ATTENTION, BUT IT DIDN'T WORK TODAY. I TRIED TO STOP; ENDED UP SNAGGING HER REAR BUMPER WITH MY LEFT FRONT PANNIER.

AT FIRST I WAS JUST RELIEVED THAT I WASN'T HURT, BUT THEN I REALIZED MY PANNIER HADN'T FARED SO WELL. IT LOOKED AS THOUGH ONE OF THE HOOKS HAD BEEN SHEARED HALFWAY OFF.

SHE WAS STUCK IN TRAFFIC ACROSS THE STREET SO I PEDALLED OVER TO FIND OUT WHAT SHE WAS GOING TO DO ABOUT THE DAMAGE. SHE SAID I HIT HER; IT WAS MY FAULT! I WAS LIVID! ENRAGED! FIT TO BE TIED! I TOLD HER SHE PULLED OUT IN FRONT OF ME; EXPECTED HER TO PAY; SHE KEPT SAYING "WHAT DO

YOU WANT ME TO DO?" THEN SHE JUST DROVE OFF INTO THE TRAFFIC. @

I GOT HER LICENSE PLATE NUMBER? PULL OFF TO SURVEY THE DAMAGE? FOUND THE ALUMINUM STICKER WAS BEST & THE HOOK WAS O.K., SO I WAS ABLE TO REPAIR IT IMMEDIATELY.

ON THE REMAINDER OF MY RIDE THROUGH ST. PETE I CAME CLOSE TO BEING HIT TWO MORE TIMES, SO STAYING IN ST. PETE NO LONGER SEEMS A GOOD IDEA.

ANYWAY, IT WAS GREAT TO SEE GRANDMA & HOW SHE'S BEEN LATELY & TO MEET HER FRIEND, JEAN.

WEEK OF 11-16 TO 11-22

I'VE DECIDED TO CONSOLIDATE MY FIRST WEEK IN ST. PETE INTO ONE ENTRY, MAINLY BECAUSE VERY LITTLE HAPPENED MY FIRST FEW DAYS IN TOWN.

MAINLY IT'S BEEN A WEEK OF CLEANING OUT MY CAR & GETTING REFITTED & REORGANIZED SO THAT WHENEVER I DECIDE TO LEAVE I

CAN DO SO QUICKLY & EASILY.

WHEN I FIRST GOT INTO TOWN I STARTED COMBING THROUGH THE WANT ADS TO FIND OUT WHAT THE EMPLOYMENT PICTURE WAS LIKE AROUND HERE & FOUND THAT UPS WAS HIRING TEMPORARY CHRISTMAS HELP. I APPLIED ON WEDNESDAY & MADE IT TO THE SECOND STEP OF THE EMPLOYMENT PROCESS, A SEMINAR TO BE HELD ON THE 26th. THERE I WILL BE TESTED ON MATERIAL GIVEN TO ME AT THE FIRST INTERVIEW & ~~THE~~ THE AMOUNT OF HOURS I RECEIVE WILL BE BASED ON HOW WELL I DO IN RELATION TO THE OTHER APPLICANTS - I MAY WORK ALL THROUGH DECEMBER OR JUST A DAY OR TWO BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

I'VE BEEN WRITING & CALLING MAUREEN OFTEN IN HOPES SHE'LL COME LIVE WITH ME FOR A WHILE & SHE'S DECIDED THAT SHE WILL, BUT I WON'T KNOW WHEN SHE'S COMING DOWN UNTIL SHE CALLS ON THE 24th OR 26th.

I HAVEN'T MET ANYONE MY OWN AGE IN TOWN SO FAR, BUT HOPEFULLY THAT WILL CHANGE

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ONCE I GET TOGETHER WITH THE ST. PETE BIKE CLUB.

11-23-85

I GOT UP EARLY TO MEET WITH DAN BATES, THE PRESIDENT OF THE ST. PETE BIKE CLUB. I HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO RIDE WITH THEM, BUT LAST NIGHT I CHANGED MY CHAIN & REAR DERAILLEUR & WAS UNABLE TO REPLACE MY FREEWHEEL AS WELL, WHICH CAUSED MY CHAIN TO KEEP SLIPPING. SO I HAD TO GET THAT FIXED BEFORE GOING ANYWHERE & THEIR RIDE STARTED BEFORE ANY BIKE SHOPS OPENED.

AFTER REPLACING MY FREEWHEEL I DECIDED TO GO EXPLORE ST. PETE & SEE WHAT ELSE IS HERE BESIDES THE DOWNTOWN AREA. I HEADED TOWARD FT. DESOTO PARK & RAN INTO A SMALL GROUP OF CYCLISTS GOING THE SAME DIRECTION. ONE GUY, RICK TAMULONIS, SEEMS TO BE OF ABOUT THE SAME ABILITY AS I AM & HE WANTS TO GET TOGETHER TO RIDE ON WEEKNIGHTS WHICH SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA. HE TOURS A BIT ALSO & IS PLANNING ON GOING TO EUROPE NEXT YEAR.

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11-24-85

I WAS OUT THE DOOR BY 6:30AM TO MEET DAN BATES FOR A RIDE TO TARPON SPRINGS TO PARTICIPATE IN A TIMED METRIC CENTURY (100 KILOMETERS) HELD BY TAMPA BAY BICYCLE SPORT, THE LOCAL USCF CYCLING CLUB.

IT WAS THE FIRST RACE IVE EVER PARTICIPATED IN, I HAD A GREAT TIME. TOWARDS THE END I GOT PRETTY TIRED OF THE WAY A LOT OF PEOPLE WERE RIDING ERRATICALLY. ONE GUY WAS WOBBLING ALL OVER THE PLACE & COULDN'T HOLD HIS LINE, & ONE GIRL WOULD SPIN A WHILE, COAST A WHILE INSTEAD OF SPINNING CONTINUOUSLY LIKE SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO. UNFORTUNATELY THE PACK WE WERE RIDING IN WAS JUST TOO LARGE - ONE GUY WAS ALWAYS SHOUTING TO KEEP US TOGETHER - ABOUT TWENTY OF US - WHEN WE SHOULD HAVE BROKE INTO SMALLER GROUPS WHEN WE HAD THE CHANCE.

I MADE A FEW MISTAKES THAT I WAS AWARE OF (HITTING MY PEDAL ON A CORNER, MISSING A SHIFT WHILE LEADING THE PACK) & PROBABLY A

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Few MISTAKES I WASN'T AWARE OF, TOO. BUT I THINK I DID OK FOR MY FIRST TIME OUT & LEARNED A LOT. RIGHT NOW I WISH I HAD A LIGHTER BIKE WITH LESS ROLLING RESISTANCE SO I COULD RIDE WITH THE FASTER RIDERS.

I WAS IN HIGH GEAR ON MY BIKE MOST OF THE DAY & STILL KEPT UP, BUT WITH A BETTER MACHINE I WOULD HAVE BEEN PUSHING THE PACE A LOT HARDER WHEN IT WAS MY TURN IN FRONT.

STILL, I FINISHED IN 3:01:58 (20.4 MPH) & WOULD HAVE FINISHED IN UNDER 3 HOURS IF THERE HAD BEEN A FEW LESS STOPLIGHTS ON THE COURSE.

MAUREEN CALLED TONIGHT & SAID SHE'D BE HERE BY DEC. 12th WHICH IS FANTASTIC NEWS. THERE WAS A CHANCE SHE WOULDN'T GET HERE 'TIL AROUND THE FIRST OF THE YEAR.

NOW I NEED TO FIND AN APARTMENT REAL QUICK, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD GET A 'PERMANENT' PLACE OR NOT AS SHE MAY WANT TO ATTEND USEF OR UT IN TAMPA.

12-14-85

200

SINCE I LAST WROTE IN THIS JOURNAL QUITE A LOT HAS HAPPENED & I REALLY SHOULD HAVE BEEN KEEPING UP TO DATE, BUT I HAVEN'T, SO I'LL TRY TO BRIEFLY RECAP EVENTS NOW & MAKE AN ATTEMPT AT STAYING CURRENT IN THE FUTURE.

NOT A LOT HAPPENED BEFORE THE FIRST OF THE MONTH. GRANDMA & I WERE INVITED TO HAVE THANKSGIVING DINNER WITH THE LOCAL PRESIDENT (OR SOME SUCH TITLE) OF THE MORMON CHURCH. OTHER THAN THAT I SPENT A GOOD DEAL OF TIME LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO STAY BEFORE GRANDMA REALLY STARTED TO GET ON MY NERVES. SHE'S SWEET & I LOVE HER, BUT WE'RE ON DIFFERENT WAVELENGTHS & THAT PLUS THAT FACT THAT SHE'S HARD OF HEARING MADE COMMUNICATIONS, & THE PROSPECT FOR THINGS TO GET BETTER, ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE.

THE PLACES I LOOKED AT WERE DUMPS OR JUST MADE ME FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE, MAINLY BECAUSE I WAS CONSIDERING TRYING TO FIND A PLACE TO RENT BY THE WEEK IN ORDER TO AVOID THE HASSLES OF SECURITY DEPOSITS, ETC...

I FOUND A PLACE IMMEDIATELY ONCE I DECIDED TO

TAKE A CHANCE ON RESTING BY THE MONTH. I'M LIVING IN AN EFFICIENCY IN THE REAR OF A HOUSE AT 1055R 14th AVE. N. I'M PAYING \$195/mo. + ELECTRICITY. IT'S VERY SMALL, BUT VERY CHEERFUL ALSO.

ON THE 26th I ATTENDED A SEMINAR/ORIENTATION FOR UNITED PARCEL SERVICE & BECAME OFFICIALLY EMPLOYED. I PICKED UP MY UNIFORM, A PAIR OF COVERALLS, ON 12/3. I FORGOT THAT WHEN I WENT IN I WOULD BE INTERVIEWED AGAIN, SO I DIDN'T MAKE A GREAT IMPRESSION WHEN THAT HAPPENED. I COULDN'T HELP FEELING AS THOUGH MY NAME WAS GOING TO BE SHUFFLED TO THE BOTTOM OF THE LIST AFTER THE INTERVIEW, BUT I STILL WAITED FOR THEM TO CALL ME AT GRANDMA'S EVERY DAY FROM 7am TO 9am. FINALLY I GOT TIRED OF WAITING & BEGAN TO WORRY ABOUT SPENDING TOO MUCH MONEY & NOT MAKING ANY & SO I APPLIED TO WORK WITH MANPOWER TEMPORARY SERVICES STARTING 12/13.

ON THE 13th I WAS TOLD TO REPORT FOR WORK AT SIKOR OPTICAL FOR MANPOWER.

AFTER GETTING LOST BY GOING TO PARK BLVD INSTEAD OF PARK ST I ARRIVED AT WORK ON TIME, ONLY TO FIND THAT ONE OF THE GIRLS AT THE OFFICE MESSED UP THE DATES - IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE 'TIL NEXT WEEK. SO I WENT HOME TO FIND THAT UPS FINALLY CALLED. OH, WELL!

OF COURSE MAUREEN ARRIVED ON THE 12th & THINGS HAVE BEEN PRETTY TENTATIVE. I'M SURE THAT'S DUE TO NOT KNOWING WHAT WE EXPECT & WANT FROM EACH OTHER. THE TENSION OF THE PAST FEW DAYS FINALLY MANIFESTED ITSELF TODAY & WE'VE AGREED THAT THE BEST WAY TO ASSURE THAT WE ENJOY OUR TIME TOGETHER IS TO PLAN ON HER GOING BACK TO CHICAGO ON 1/8 & FOR ME TO PLAN ON MOVING OUT OF THE EFFICIENCY BY 1/5. THAT WAY I'LL BE ABLE TO MOSCH A PLACE TO STAY BY POSSIBLY CAMPING IN THE BACK YARD OF ONE OF THE ACQUAINTANCES I'VE MADE. THAT WAY I CAN SAVE MONEY WHILE WORKING AT MANPOWER EVEN IF I ONLY WORK A FEW DAYS A WEEK. IN FACT IF I STAY IN FLORIDA 'TIL MARCH,

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I'LL PROBABLY BE ABLE TO RECOVER MOST, IF NOT ALL OF THE MONEY I'VE SPENT WHILE STAYING IN FLORIDA.

12/6-85

NO BIG NEWS TO REPORT. I REPORTED TO MY FIRST JOB FOR MANPOWER ON THE 14th. I WAS WORKING THE GRAVEYARD SHIFT ASSEMBLING THE SUNDAY PAPER.

I WAS ON A MACHINE THAT STUFFED INSERTS INTO THE 'MAINS' OR MAIN PART OF THE PAPER. I WOULD HAVE A PALLET OF 'MAINS' BROUGHT TO ME; I WOULD HAVE TO GRAB A HANDFUL AT A TIME; SET THEM ON A TABLE WITH THE FOLDS ARRANGED A CERTAIN WAY; THEN ANOTHER GUY WOULD PICK THEM UP, SQUARE THEM OFF, & FEED THEM INTO A MACHINE (WHICH IS WHY WE WERE CALLED FEEDERS).

WHEN OUR MACHINE WAS SHUT DOWN WHEN WE HAD ASSEMBLED ENOUGH MAINS, WE WOULD GO TO THE STUFFING TABLES; STUFF THE ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT SECTIONS (WHICH WERE

ALSO CRAMMED WITH INSERTS) INTO THE MAINS; THEN THE PAPERS WERE BUNDLED & SHIPPED OUT.

~~BECAUSE~~ ON SUNDAY MAUREEN; I WENT TO SEE 'WHITE NIGHTS'. WE MADE IT IN SPITE OF MISREADING THE BUS SCHEDULE (NOT REALIZING IT HAD A SEPARATE SUNDAY SCHEDULE). WHAT A GREAT MOVIE! IT MADE ME WISH I COULD DANCE; THAT I WAS ABOVE THE ARCTIC CIRCLE.

ON MONDAY (TODAY) I WORKED AT PALMS OF PASADENA HOSPITAL PURGING THEIR XRAY FILES: PULLING THE FILM OUT OF THE JACKETS SO THAT IT COULD BE RECYCLED TO EXTRACT THE SILVER IT CONTAINS. IT WAS SORT OF NICE TO WORK IN A HOSPITAL AGAIN, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT WAS VERY SIMILAR IN MANY RESPECTS TO VALLEY: DECOR, SIGNS, PEOPLE, NEIGHBORHOOD, ETC. ...

I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER THAT MAUREEN WILL BE STAYING WITH ME, THOUGH I

SENSE NOT VERY LONG. I'M NEARLY CONSTANTLY AWARE THAT COMMUNICATIONS ARE FALLING APART ; YET I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT. I TRY TO FIGURE OUT WHERE THINGS HAVE GONE WRONG ; EVEN WITH JUST A SHORT TIME PASSED, THINGS SEEM BLURRY ; NO SIGNIFICANT EVENT STANDS OUT AS "THE CAUSE."

A COUPLE OF NIGHTS AGO MAUREEN HAD SOME THINGS ON HER MIND THAT SHE COULDN'T EXPRESS TO ME ; PERHAPS (WHO CAN BE SURE) THAT WAS A CUE TO MY SUBCONSCIOUS TO START WITH-HOLDING INFORMATION.

I FEEL NOW THAT WHAT I WANT IS A PLATONIC RELATIONSHIP, PERHAPS BECAUSE IT'S THE ONLY WAY THINGS CAN BE TOTALLY HONEST. THAT SOCIETY'S VIEWS OF SEX ARE STILL A LEASH AROUND EVERYONE'S NECK ; IT ENCOURAGES PLAYING GAMES WITH SUCH TITLES AS: APPEARANCES, VALUES, ETC... PISS ON IT! IF YOU CAN HAVE HONEST SEX THERE'S NO POINT IN HAVING IT AT ALL.

I DO WANT MAUREEN TO STICK

AROUND FOR AS LONG AS SHE LIKES (EVEN LONGER), BUT I DON'T THINK I WANT TO TELL HER THAT ; I'M REALLY AFRAID TO EVEN ASK MYSELF WHY I THINK THAT WAY.

I REALLY DO ENJOY HAVING HER AROUND ; I LOVE WATCHING HER AROUND OTHER PEOPLE BECAUSE I FEEL I LEARN A LOT BY THE WAY SHE THINKS ; HANDLES HERSELF. I WONDER IF I FLATTER MYSELF BY THINKING THAT POSSIBLY A REASON THAT THERE IS A LOT OF TENSION IS DUE TO US BOTH HAVING STRONG PERSONALITIES. HERS IS LIKE A BRICK WALL IN THAT ^{IT IS} VERY CONSISTENT ; MINE IS LIKE A WILLOW TREE: A LOT OF GIVE, BUT I EVENTUALLY SNAP BACK TO MY ORIGINAL POSITION.

I'M TOTALLY CONFUSED ABOUT MAUREEN'S CONCEPTION OF WHAT OUR RELATIONSHIP IS OR SHOULD BE ; THAT PROBABLY IS WHAT'S REALLY EATING AT ME. I DON'T

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KNOW IF SHE DOESN'T LIKE ME ALL THAT MUCH (I THOUGHT SHE DID) OR IF SHE THINKS THAT MY EFFORTS TO MAKE HER WELCOME SUGGESTED TOO MUCH SERIOUSNESS ON MY PART OR WHAT. I KNOW THAT WHAT I ENVISIONED WHEN SHE CAME HERE WAS THAT WE HAD SOMEWHERE BETWEEN NOW, MID-APRIL TO JUST RELAX, ENJOY EACH OTHER TO THE FULLEST EXTENT IN ORDER TO SEE IF WE HAD ANY TRULY SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO EACH OTHER & TO TRY TO DEFINE THAT IN TERMS OF HAD IT AFFECTED OUR FUTURE, IF IT DID. SO MUCH FOR DAY DREAMS & GOODWISHES.

(12-17-85)

I'M FINALLY DISGUSTED WITH MAUREEN. I STARTED THE DAY WAKING UP LATE FOR WORK AS A RESULT OF MAUREEN RESETTING MY ALARM & MY NOT CHECKING IT. OF COURSE THAT'S NOT WHY I'M DISGUSTED, IT JUST SERVED AS A CATALYST FOR MY THOUGHTS TO EVOLVE TO THAT STATE.

WHAT REALLY INFURIATES ME IS THE WAY

THAT SHE'S SO FUCKING NON-CHALANT ABOUT ANY PROBLEMS I PERCEIVE BETWEEN US. SHE'S LIKE SOME GOD DAMN FROEDIAN IMPLYING WITH HER INDIFFERENCE THAT THEIR MY PROBLEMS & I SHOULD WORK THEM OUT MYSELF. I'M SURE SHE'D HAVE A STROKE IF THE THOUGHT EVER OCCURRED TO HER THAT POSSIBLY SHE COULD MAKE SOME EFFORT TO MAKE THINGS BETTER. INSTEAD ~~TO~~ ALL I GET IS A LOAD SHIT LIKE: "MAYBE I COULD LEAVE SOONER" & "I WONDER IF I CAN GET AMTRAK TO CHANGE MY TICKET". SHE MIGHT AS WELL SAY "FUCK OFF & DIE OR KISS MY ASS; IT'S YOUR CHOICE."

IT TOTALLY AMAZES ME HOW, AFTER A WEEK TOGETHER CONSTANTLY IN D.C. THAT I DIDN'T SEE HOW WHEN I SAW WHITE, SHE SAW BLACK & VICE VERSA. I THINK THAT (LIKE AN IDIOT WITH COLD MASH STRAINED THROUGH A SIEVE FOR BRAINS) I ALWAYS BEND TOO MUCH TO ACCOMMODATE OTHER PEOPLE; TO KEEP THINGS PEACEY; THEN END UP RESENTING IT WHEN I DON'T SENSE ANY RECIPROCATION. WHEN THE

HELL AM I GOING TO LEARN TO BE A BIT MORE HARD-ASSED? WHEN WILL I DISCOVER SOMETHING ABOUT MYSELF THAT OTHER PEOPLE WANT & USE IT TO DEVELOP A "TAKE ME OR LEAVE ME" ATTITUDE TOWARD PEOPLE INSTEAD OF ALLOWING MYSELF TO CONFORM TO THEIR IDEA OF WHO THEY ARE LOOKING FOR?

FOR ALL THE THOUGHTS I HAD BEFORE MAUREEN ARRIVED OF WHAT TO DO TO KEEP THINGS RUNNING SMOOTHLY, IT'S DISHEARTENING TO THINK THAT IT DIDN'T EVEN GET US COMPLETELY THROUGH THE FIRST DAY. I SUSPECT A STRONG DOSE OF MOTHERLY ADVICE TO TRAVEL BY, WHICH IS FINE, BUT IT LEFT ME IN DREAMLAND & HER IN SOMETHING MUCH CLOSER TO REALITY. I WAS STILL THINKING THE ROSY THOUGHTS OF THE PAST TWO MONTHS & READY TO CHARGE AHEAD & SHE WAS BRIMMING OVER WITH SUSPICIONS & WARNINGS & HAD GEARED WAY DOWN AS THOUGH SHE WAS RIDING ON AN TOY ROAD WITH BALD TIRES.

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT I START WORK AT UPS TOMORROW.

12-19 85

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I'M WORKING WITH JIMMY WOODS AT UPS & I'VE PUT IN QUITE FEW HOURS THE PAST FEW DAYS: 14 HRS ON WEDNESDAY & 11 HRS ON THURSDAY.

THE MAUREEN ROLLER COASTER CONTINUES: TONIGHT SHE LEFT A NOTE THAT SHE'D BE HOME BY 9:00 & CAME IN AT 2:30 AFTER I HAD ALREADY CALLED THE POLICE & SEVERAL HOSPITALS.

SHE APOLOGIZED, SAID SHE WAS HORROR, WE GOT A BIT HEATED UP & THEN SHE DECIDED TO GO TO SLEEP. NOTHING LIKE HAVING YOUR SLEEP FUCKED UP FOR ~~NOTHING~~ NOTHING WHEN YOU'RE WORKING YOUR ASS OFF FOR AS MANY HOURS AS I DO WITH SORE MUSCLES THAT PROBABLY WON'T RECOVER 'TIL AFTER I QUIT WORKING.

12-26-85

MAUREEN & I HAVE RECONCILED OUR DIFFERENCES ENOUGH TO HAVE MADE IT THROUGH CHRISTMAS WITHOUT A GREAT DEAL OF TORMOL. IN FACT IT'S BEEN @ SORTA FUN - WE'VE BEEN CRUISING AROUND TOGETHER ON OUR BICYCLES WHEN WE'VE HAD THE

CHANCE? WE'VE GONE OUT FOR DINNER, ICE CREAM
+ TWO MOVIES? WILL PROBABLY GO OUT FOR DINNER
TONIGHT. HOWEVER I'M SURE THINGS WILL NEVER
GET ANY BETTER - WE HAVE TOO MANY DIFFERENCES
IN OPINION? WE CAN'T SEEM TO MAKE EACH OTHER
HAPPY WITHOUT COMPROMISING OUR INTEGRITY. IT'S
ALL SEEMS TO BE A RECUR OF PAST PROBLEMS WITH
OTHER GIRLFRIENDS. IN FACT I'VE BEEN UNAWARE
THAT WHEN SHE DOES SOMETHING I DON'T LIKE THAT
I CALL HER A 'TYPICAL FEMALE'? THAT COME TO
THINK OF IT I'VE BEEN SAYING IT A LOT.

SHE'S CHANGED HER AIRTRAK RESERVATION TO
THE 31ST OF DEC. FROM 1/8 WHICH IS A GOOD THING.
WHILE THINGS AREN'T REALLY TENSE AROUND HERE, I
KNOW I'M NOT AS RELAXED AS I'D LIKE TO BE. BESIDES,
THE 31ST IS LOADED WITH SYMBOLISM OF TURNING OVER
A NEW LEAF? ALL THAT.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS WITH WOMEN. I SUPPOSE
IT'S MAINLY A MATTER OF THEIR EXPERIENCE IN HAVING
TO FEED OFF GUYS ~~WHICH~~ THAT ARE WALLOWING IN A FLOOD
OF MALE HORMONES THAT MAKES THEM THE WAY THEY
ARE. THEY ALL SEEM TO WANT SOMEONE WHO IS

NEUTER? PASSIONATELY ROMANTIC (A DEFINITE
CONTRADICTION IN TERMS)? I'M NOT TOO SURE IF
THEY WERE EVER TO GET THAT THEY ^{WOULDN'T} WANT
SOMETHING ELSE.

SO NEEDLESS TO SAY MY FEATHERS HAVE BEEN
RUFFLED? MY DEFENSES ARE UP? THEY'RE GONNA
STAY THERE. THE BENEFITS OF DOING OTHERWISE
JUST AREN'T THERE ANY MORE.

OF COURSE ALL THIS IS REALLY PRETTY SCARY.
THINGS WERE GREAT AT FIRST? WE WERE ABLE TO
COMMUNICATE WELL ~~BECAUSE~~ BECAUSE WE KNEW
EXACTLY WHAT TO EXPECT - THAT I'D BE ON MY WAY
SOON. BUT AS SOON AS THINGS WERE A BIT LESS
DEFINED, THE SUSPICIONS? WORRIES BLOOMED?
COMMUNICATIONS GOT ROOBER? POORER. WHAT'S IT
LIKE WHEN TWO PEOPLE GET MARRIED? AFTER LOOKING
AT THE RESULT OF ABOUT 80% OF THE MARRIAGES
I'VE SEEN I'D HAVE TO SAY THAT THE REASONS ARE
PROBABLY DIFFERENT BUT THE PROBLEMS ARE THE SAME.

WE SPENT CHRISTMAS WITH GRANDMA, HAVING
DINNER WITH HER AROUND ONE O'CLOCK? THEN

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GOING TO A MOVIE FOR A WHILE, THEN SPENDING SOME TIME WITH HER IN THE EVENING. I'M SURE SHE LIKES MAUREEN BECAUSE THEY TALK A LOT. I USUALLY JUST SIT AROUND LIKE A ZOMBIE BECAUSE ~~THE~~ I'VE HEARD ALL THE STORIES AT LEAST 2 OR 3 TIMES.

I'M GOING TO NOTIFY THE LANDLORD TODAY THAT I'LL BE MOVING ON 1/31. HOPEFULLY I CAN TALK RICK TAMULONIS INTO LETTING ME STAY WITH HIM FOR A WHILE. I'LL PROBABLY MAIL MOST OF MY SUPERFLUOUS GEAR HOME IN A FEW WEEKS SO THAT IF I HAVE TO MOVE AROUND A BIT I CAN GET EVERYTHING ON MY BIKE (I MAY TRY STAYING WITH RICK FOR A WHILE, THEN MAX, THEN JOHN, ETC...).

(12-28-85)

THINGS CERTAINLY SEEM TO BE GOING FAIRLY WELL WITH MAUREEN & ME - WE (OR AT LEAST I) ~~WAS~~ WERE ABLE TO HAVE SOME FUN TOGETHER YESTERDAY FOR A CHANGE.

WE DECIDED TO RIDE OUT TO TREASURE ISLAND BEACH SINCE THE WEATHER IS FINALLY RELAXING, & IT'S WARMING UP AGAIN. IT WAS REALLY

TOO COOL TO DO MUCH MORE THAN JUST WALK & LOOK FOR SHELLS, BUT THAT WAS ENJOYABLE. WE WANTED TO STAY & SEE THE SUNSET, BUT WE WEREN'T QUITE PREPARED FOR A LONG CHILLY RIDE HOME, SO WE'LL DO THAT TOMORROW MOST LIKELY.

WE WENT TO THE MOVIES ON THE WAY HOME & SAW "ROCKY IV" SINCE IT WAS SRO FOR "JEWEL OF THE Nile". THEN WE BOUGHT A ~~CHERRY~~ CHESS SET, A BOTTLE OF BLACK TOWER, SOME CHEESE & CRACKERS & SPENT THE REST OF THE EVENING AT HOME.

TODAY, MAUREEN'S OUT RUNNING & SWIMMING (HER NORMAL AFTERNOON ROUTINE) & I HAD A BRISK BICYCLE RIDE WITH THE BIKE CLUB THIS A.M. & RAN A BIT MORE THAN A MILE THIS AFTERNOON.

SINCE WORKING FOR UPS I'M ABLE TO RUN CLOSE TO 30 MIN. NON-STOP WITHOUT MUCH PAIN. I HAVE A VERY TIGHT ~~GLUTE~~ GROIN MUSCLE IN MY RIGHT LEG WHICH IS GIVING ME FITS, THOUGH (EVEN WHEN CYCLING) OR I'D PROBABLY DO MUCH BETTER. IT'LL WORK ITSELF OUT SOON ENOUGH.

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THOUGH. I HOPE TO RUN 20+ MILES A WEEK IN ADDITION TO BICYCLING IN ORDER TO GET IN SHAPE FOR HIKING ACROSS THE ALPS.

TONIGHT, WE'RE GOING TO THE CINEMA & DRAFTHOUSE FOR PIZZA & TO SEE "AGNES OF GOD". IT'S KIND OF BLAST DATING BY BICYCLE. I'M CERTAINLY SORRY I'VE NEVER DONE IT BEFORE. IT'S A GREAT EXCUSE FOR NOT STAYING OUT ALL NIGHT LONG.

12-29-85

COOLER THAN EXPECTED TEMPERATURES & LOTS OF CLOUDS CAUSED MAUREEN & I TO RECONSIDER OUR PLANS TO SEE THE SUNSET AT ST. PETER BEACH. INSTEAD, WE STAYED CLOSE TO HOME & WERE PRETTY LAZY. THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE DAY WAS SEEING A FREE CONCERT AT WILLIAMS PARK, A BUNCH OLD FOGEYS PLAYING MARCHES & STUFF.

WE ALSO SPENT A LOT OF TIME PLANNING TO SPEND THE DAY IN TAMPA TOMORROW. BUT SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY WE MANAGED TO HAVE A BIT OF A SQUABBLE. NOTHING IMPORT-

ANT, NOTHING THAT SHOULD SCREW UP TOMORROW'S PLANS, BUT TROUBLE JUST THE SAME.

I'VE STARTED TO IMAGINE A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE WAY I ACT WHEN UPSET WITH MAUREEN & WHEN I'D BE UPSET WITH MIKE, ROB, OR CHERYL - IT CERTAINLY IS VERY CHILDISH. I FEEL AS THOUGH I HAVE NO CONTROL OF THE SITUATION & SO I FLY OFF THE HANDLE & JUST SULK.

AT FIRST I WAS AMAZED THAT I COULD ACT THAT WAY, BUT THE MORE I THINK OF IT IT'S NOT SO UNUSUAL. I'M SURE IF I WASN'T LIVING WITH MAUREEN THAT I'D JUST GO HOME IF I GOT UPSET, BUT OF COURSE I DON'T HAVE THAT OPTION. AND UNTIL RECENTLY GOING FOR A WALK HAS HAD LITTLE APPEAL SINCE IT'S BEEN GETTING PRETTY COLD.

I GUESS WHAT IT BOILS DOWN TO IS THAT I HAVE NO IDEA OF ^{HOW TO DEAL} ~~DEALING~~ WITH SITUATIONS WHERE SOMEBODY HAS CONTROL OVER ME, OR AT LEAST NO IDEA OF HOW TO DEAL WITH IT CONSTRUCTIVELY.

(12-31-85)

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MAUREEN & I TRAVELLED TO TAMPA BY BUS YESTERDAY IN ORDER TO SEE THE TOWN, BUT SINCE THE BUS RIDES TOOK ABOUT TWO + HOURS EACH WAY WE WERE ONLY ABLE TO SEE THE MUSEUM OF SCIENCE & INDUSTRY. IT WAS A LOT OF FUN. WE SAT IN A SIMULATED HURRICANE & ATTENDED A PHYSICS WORKSHOP & HAD FUN IN A NUMBER OF OTHER EXHIBITS. AND WE PICNIC-ED ON ~~THE~~ A TERRACE THERE, FEASTING ON SUB-STYLE SANDWICHES WE MADE AT HOME.

MAUREEN LEFT FOR CHICAGO TODAY AT 7:00PM. WE SPENT THE DAY PACKING & DOING OUR BEST TO DRAG THINGS OUT AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. WE TALKED A BIT ABOUT HER STAYING A WHILE LONGER, BUT WE WERE BOTH GOING BROKE FAST & IT LOOKED AS THOUGH THE WEATHER WOULD PROBABLY TURN BAD AGAIN, SO WE BOTH DECIDED THAT NOW WAS PROBABLY THE BEST TIME.

IT WAS KIND OF FUN RIDING OVER TO

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THE TRAIN STATION TOGETHER - MAUREEN WITH HER KNAPSACK ON & PANNIERS ON HER BIKE & ME CARRYING TWO DUFFLE BAGS - ONE STRAPPED TO MY BACK & PROJECTING 6-8" ABOVE MY HEAD & THE OTHER STRAPPED TO MY REAR RACK.

NOW THAT I'M BACK HOME TRULY ALONE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THREE WEEKS THE INITIAL FEELING OF MILD EUPHORIA DUE TO HAVING MY SOLITUDE BACK IS RAPIDLY GIVING WAY TO MILD DEPRESSION & AN UNACCUSTOMED FEELING OF LONLINESS. IT'S A GOOD THING THAT A BIKE CLUB RIDE & MOWING GRAMMA'S LAWN WILL KEEP ME BUSY TOMORROW.

(1-2-86)

A LOT RAIN KEPT ME ~~FROM~~ FROM RIDING WITH THE BIKE CLUB & MOWING GRANDMA'S LAWN AS PLANNED. IT'S WAS A REALLY BORING DAY WHICH HEIGHTENED MY FEELING OF LONLINESS.

TODAY WAS GREAT, THOUGH. I SPENT THE DAY WORKING AT R & L ENTERPRISES IN LARGO, A LITTLE MORE THAN TEN MILES AWAY.

I WAS SENT THERE WITH A BUNCH OF OTHER GUYS FROM MANPOWER & WE SPENT OUR FIRST FEW HOURS STRAIGHTENING UP R & L'S WAREHOUSE. (THEY MANUFACTURE VERTICAL BLINDS).

AFTER THAT, THE OTHER GUYS WORKED IN SHIPPING FOR THE DAY & I WAS PUT TO WORK ASSEMBLING BLINDS.

FIRST, THEY HAD ME CUT MATERIAL & PAPER BACKING. THEN I APPLIED THE BACKING TO THE MATERIAL & INSERTED IT INTO PLASTIC STRIPS THAT HAD CLEAR GROOVES MOUNTED ON THE FRONT CALLED 'GROOVERS'.

AFTER THAT WAS DONE I INSERTED SOME MACRAMÉ-LIKE MATERIAL INTO GROOVERS & PUNCHED A NUMBER OF HOLES IN THEM IN ORDER MAKE FINISHED BLINDS.

ONE OF THE GIRLS THERE, A 19 YEAR OLD CUTIE NAMED CINDY WAS PRETTY HOT FOR ME, OR SO MY IMAGINATION LED ME TO BELIEVE. I WAS PRETTY AMUSED BECAUSE

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SHE & JOANNE, HER COWORKER, HAD BEEN TALKING & CINDY SAID SHE WAS DISGUSTED BY SOMEONE THAT WANTED TO DATE HER THAT WAS THIRTY ("HE'S OLD ENOUGH TO BE MY FATHER"). THAT WAS PRETTY FLATTERING.

I PICKED UP MY CHECK AT UPS TODAY - \$290 BEFORE TAXES. IT'S ALL 1986 EARNINGS SO ALL THE TAX WITHHELD I'LL GET BACK NEXT YEAR, WHICH IS GREAT. IF THE CHECK HAD BEEN WRITTEN DEC 31 I WOULD HAVE PAID ABOUT \$70 TO OLE UNCLE SAM!

I MAY GO SEE ABOUT GETTING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS TOMORROW IF I HAVE TIME.

(1-5-86)

FRIDAY WAS A LAZY^{DAY} AS I USED THE HEAVY MORNING FOG AS AN EXCUSE TO LOUNGE AROUND TIL NOON.

THE CLOSEST THING TO A NOTABLE EVENT WAS TURNING IN MY UNIFORM AT UPS. WHICH CAUSED ME TO GO TO THE UNEMPLOYMENT OFFICE TO FILE A CLAIM, WHICH I CAN'T DO UNTIL

MONDAY.

SATURDAY WAS A GREAT DAY.

A BUNCH OF US DROVE UP TO SAN ANTONIO FOR A 45 MILE RIDE THROUGH THE HILLS, WHICH WERE HONEST-TO-GOD HILLS, THOUGH NONE WERE LONG ENOUGH TO BE WORTH BRAGGIN' ABOUT.

THE SCENERY WAS NICE, YET IT WAS THE SAME NICE UNSPECTACULAR SCENERY THAT DOMINATES THE EAST COAST SOUTH OF D.C. THE THING THAT I FOUND INTERESTING WERE THE GROVES OF DEAD ORANGE TREES THAT WERE KILLED BY THE FROSTS OF THE PAST FEW WINTERS.

THERE WERE EIGHT OF US 'CYCLING': JASON, DAVE, BRIAN, LAURA, MIKE, DAVE, *TINA BACON & MYSELF. WE ALSO RAN INTO TWO GUYS FROM TAMPAE, PAUL, *TIMOTHY, WHO RODE WITH US MOST OF THE WAY.

THE AFTERNOON WAS CAPPED OFF WITH THE DISCOVERY THAT DAVE, WHO HAD DRIVEN JASON & I UP, HAD GOTTEN LOST ON THE WAY BACK. JASON & I STAYED BEHIND AS THE OTHER FIVE DROVE

OF LOOKING FOR HIM.

AFTER A WHILE DAVE SHOWED UP AFTER BEING GIVEN A RIDE BY A GUY FROM DADE CITY. HE ENDED UP PEDALLING THERE, SEVEN MILES OFF COURSE, & GOT DISCOURAGED WHEN SOME PEOPLE TRIED TO EXPLAIN HOW HE COULD FIND SAN ANTONIO, SO ONE OF 'EM TOOK PITY ON HIM & TAXIED HIM OVER.

IT WAS A PLEASANT WAIT, & TURNED OUT TO BE A GREAT EXCUSE TO KICK BACK A COUPLE OF BEERS.

AFTER I GOT BACK, I CALLED MAUREEN WHO DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TO SAY OTHER THAN SHE WAS DEPRESSED - I GUESS IT WAS PRETTY COLD UP THERE, & SHE'S ALREADY MAKING PLANS TO MOVE TO ARIZONA THOUGH THAT'LL TAKE A FEW MONTHS.

SHE MADE ONE COMMENT "I'M SURPRISED I MISS YOU" THAT COULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN AS A SORT OF INSULT, BUT I FELT THE SAME WAY. I CERTAINLY WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT

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WOULD HAVE HAPPENED NEXT IF SHE STAYED,
BUT I COULDN'T AFFORD TO FIND THE ANSWER.

SUNDAY'S BEEN A DRAG, MAINLY BECAUSE
A HEAVY EARLY MORNING RAIN TOOK AWAY
ANY VENTURE TO GO OUTSIDE. I DID TRY
TO CALL MIKE KARCH A FEW TIMES AS I'VE
BEEN DOING ALL WEEK, BUT STILL NO LUCK.

(1-7-86)
NOT MUCH HAPPENS THESE DAYS. THE WEATHER
IS NICE ENOUGH TO PLAY AROUND IN ONCE IN
A WHILE, BUT QUITE OFTEN IT'S EITHER TOO
COLD OR THERE'S A FAIR CHANCE OF RAIN.

I'M SORRY I DON'T ENJOY GOING OVER
TO GRANDMA'S. I'D WOULDN'T MIND GOING
OVER THERE TO SEE TV NOW & THEN, BUT
I FEEL BAD IF I DON'T HAVE A LOT TO SAY
TO HER. AND I'M NOT THRILLED ABOUT RIDING
HOME LATE AT NIGHT EITHER.

I GET A BIG KICK OUT OF TRAVELING
AROUND & JUST SCRAPING BY, BUT STAYING IN
ONE PLACE I JUST GET BORED & LONELY. I

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NEED TO FIND A GIRLFRIEND OR SOMETHING,
BUT I WON'T BE AROUND LONG ENOUGH
TO MAKE IT WORTH WHILE, EVEN IF I DO FIND
SOMEONE FAIRLY SOON.

OH WELL.

I WORKED AT ST. PETERSBURG JUNIOR COLLEGE
TODAY IN THEIR DISTRICT OFFICE IN CENTRAL
SERVICES. I PUT IN SIX HOURS, ABOUT 2 OR 3
HOURS OF WORK & THE REST JUST STANDING
AROUND. THE GUYS THERE (JOE, RON, & HENRY)
ARE A BUNCH OF GOOF-OFFS & THEY SHOW
THEIR BOSS, JOAN, UP TO THINKING THEY'RE
DOING THE BEST THEY CAN WHEN IN REALITY
THEY DO THE LEAST THEY CAN.

ANYWAY, THE 'BIG THINK' WAS TO MOVE ABOUT
A DOZEN VERY HEAVY FILE CABINETS, WHICH WE
DID (RON & I). OF COURSE, RON PUT ON A BIG
SHOW & WHINED & WHIMPERED ABOUT HOW DIFFICULT
IT WAS TO DO (WHICH WASN'T MUCH OF AN
OVERSTATEMENT), BUT HE PROBABLY SWEAT MORE
SWEAT THINKING ABOUT THE ENERGY HE HAD
EXPENDED THAN HE DID WHILE DOING IT.

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1-10-86

I'VE BEEN WORKING AT PALMS OF PRADEIRA HOSPITAL THE PAST THREE DAYS & WILL BE THERE AT LEAST SATURDAY, MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY OF NEXT WEEK.

THEY'RE IN THE PROCESS OF EXPANDING & WE'VE BEEN MOVING DEPARTMENTS AROUND IN PREPARATION OF CONSTRUCTION BEING COMPLETED.

ON WEDNESDAY I WORKED WITH ~~ROGER~~ ROGER, AN UNEMPLOYED CARPENTER FROM CINCINNATI, & 'LITTLE JOE' A BLACK KID ABOUT 6'5" THAT WEIGHED AT LEAST 350 POUNDS & WAS TRAINING TO BE A TRUCK DRIVER.

WE SPENT THE DAY MOVING BIOMED TO A BUILDING OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL & WE MOVED A DOZEN BEDS AROUND FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER.

THINGS WERE PRETTY SLACK. AT ONE POINT OUR SUPERVISOR ~~HE~~ EVEN HAD US HIDE IN A ROOM IN THE 'ANNEX' ACROSS

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THE STREET BECAUSE HE DIDN'T WANT TO FIND SOMETHING FOR US TO DO UNTIL THE BEDS ARRIVED.

THURSDAY WAS AS SLACK AS WEDNESDAY, PERHAPS MORE SO. WE MOVED A FEW MORE BEDS AROUND & THEN SPENT A GOOD PART OF THE REST OF THE DAY DUSTING OUT THE CABINETS IN THE NEW I.R. VERY SLOWLY.

WE DID A FEW OTHER THINGS, BUT MOST OF WHAT WE DID WAS BUSY WORK & COULD HAVE BEEN DONE BY THE STAFF HOUSEKEEPERS IF THEY HAD ANY AMBITION.

I FOUND A BROKEN FOLD BRACELET ON THE FLOOR IN FRONT OF HOUSEKEEPING, WHICH I SHOWED TO ROGER (LITTLE JOE COULDN'T WORK TODAY) WHO DECIDED TO KEEP IT TO SEE IF HE COULD CASH ~~IT~~ IT IN FOR A LITTLE SPENDING MONEY. A WHILE LATER A BLACK HOUSEKEEPER ~~HAD~~ ASKED ME IF I SAW ^{IT}, BUT BY THAT TIME ROGER HAD

ALREADY HOCKED IT FOR \$22.

I GOT THE IMPRESSION IT HAD COST
WELL OVER A HUNDRED BUCKS.

ROGER & I WERE BACK AT IT AGAIN
TODAY, PISSIN' AROUND & DOING VERY LITTLE.
WE EMPTIED SOME TRASH INTO THE
INCINERATOR, STORED SOME XMAS DECOR-
ATIONS, SHUFFLED SOME CHAIRS AROUND
QUITE A NUMBER OF TIMES, MOVED SOME
SOFAS & LOCKERS, ALL AT A SNAIL'S PACE,
TO PASS THE FIRST SIX HOURS.

WE EVEN MANAGED TO CON SOME
FREE SANDWICHES & DONUTS OUT OF THE
O.R. NURSES WHEN WE MOVED THE LOCKERS.

WE ACTUALLY WORKED THE FINAL TWO
HOURS, MOVING MAMMOGRAPHY TO ITS NEW
ROOM & SOME OF THE HEAVIER THINGS
INTO THE NEW E.R. FROM ITS TEMPORARY
LOCATION.

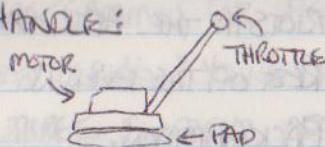
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THINGS ARE LOOKING BETTER!

ROGER & I WORKED SATURDAY GETTING THE
AREA THAT E.R. MOVED OUT OF READY FOR PATIENTS.
I ~~OR~~ SPENT THE MAJORITY OF THE DAY TOUCHING
UP THE WALLS & DOOR FRAME WITH SOME FRESH
PAINT & ROGER CLEANED THE CARPETS WITH A
CARPET BUFFER.

I HAD FUN TRYING TO LEARN TO USE THE
CARPET BUFFER, WHICH WAS A MACHINE WITH
A LARGE PAD RESTING AGAINST THE FLOOR
WHICH WAS SPUN CLOCKWISE BY A MOTOR
~~AREA~~ THAT WAS CONTROLLED BY A THROTTLE
ON THE HANDLE:



WHEN I FIRST STARTED THE BUFFER IT
TRIED TO TAKE OFF IN A CIRCLE TO MY LEFT,
BUT WITH A LOT OF HELP FROM ROGER I LEARNED
TO CONTROL ITS DIRECTION BY LIFTING THE
HANDLE UP TO GO RIGHT & LOWERING IT TO
GO LEFT.

ON SUNDAY I GOT UP EARLY TO RIDE WITH THE BIKE CLUB TO PASS-A-GRILLE BEACH, DESPITE A LIVELY WIND / SOME COLD TEMPERATURES, / THEN STOPPED BY TO SEE RICK TAMULONIS ON THE WAY HOME.

1/19/86 → I SPENT THE AFTERNOON / EVENING WITH ALEA SANDOZ, MY NEIGHBOR. SHE'S AN RN. / SUPERVISES A HOME HEALTH AGENCY. WE TOOK A LAZY BIKE RIDE DOWN TO THE PIER / PARKED IN THE SUN WHICH WAS GREAT SINCE WE WERE SHELTERED BY THE WIND.

WE RETURNED HOME TO SEE THE DOLPHINS LOSE TO THE PATRIOTS IN THE AFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME. / SPENT THE REST OF THE EVENING GETTING DRUNK / PLAYING BACKGAMMON.

MONDAY WAS ANOTHER LAZY DAY AT PALMS. ROGER / I SPENT MOST OF THE MORNING DOING MAKE-WORK JOBS UNTIL WE FINALLY GOT A FEW BEDS IN WHICH WE MOVED TO THE UNIT WE CLEANED / PAINTED ON SATURDAY.

ROGER LEFT EARLY / I SPENT THE LAST

HALF OF THE ^{DAY} WORKING BY MYSELF, MAINLY WORKING OUTSIDE IN THE SUN LOADING THE INCINERATOR. I WAS ALMOST ENJOYING MYSELF WHEN I REALIZED I HAD IT LOADED TOO FULL / HAD TO JUMP INSIDE / PULL GARBAGE OUT. SINCE IT'S COMPACTED BY A HUGE HYDRAULIC RAM IT WAS A PAIN IN THE BUTT TO UNLOAD. THE PLASTIC BAGS WERE WEDGED IN TIGHT / FELL APART AS I PULLED AT THEM / OCCASSIONALLY SENT BLOOD / MUCK FLYING EVERYWHERE.

I SPENT THE EVENING WITH ALEA PLAYING DARTS / BACKGAMMON FOR BEER (AFTER WE GOT BACK FROM SEEING "YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES") / I WON THREE SIXPACKS OFF HER.

AFTER DATING MAUREEN / ALEA I WONDER WHY I LET MYSELF GET SO UNCOMFORTABLE WITH OTHER WOMEN WHO EXPECTED TOO MUCH OF ME. WITH BOTH OF THEM (/ UNDOUBTEDLY WITH MOST WOMEN) IT'S INCREDIBLY EASY TO HAVE A GREAT TIME BECAUSE WE CAN BE HAPPY DOING JUST ABOUT ANYTHING.

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IF I EVER DATE SOMEONE THAT EXPECTS ME TO SHOW THEM AN EXCEPTIONALLY UNIQUE GOOD TIME WHEN I DON'T REALLY WANT TO DO THAT, THEY'LL GET THEIR WALKING PAPERS IMMEDIATELY.

TODAY'S BEEN A LAZY DAY SINCE I DIDN'T GO TO WORK, PARTLY BECAUSE IT WAS TOO COLD; PARTLY BECAUSE I DIDN'T GET ENOUGH SLEEP LAST NIGHT.

ALEA & I PLAN ON DOING LAUNDRY TOGETHER TONIGHT & WORK^{ING} ON THE TWO SIX PACKS I WON.

(1-21-86)

I GUESS I'VE BEEN BUSY SINCE I HAVEN'T WRITTEN IN MY JOURNAL FOR A WEEK NOW.

I'VE MANAGED TO CAUSE ALEA TO AMASS QUITE A ~~DEBT~~ DEBT IN BEERS PLAYING DARTS, LAST CARD, CRIBBAGE, & BACKGAMMON. I GET LUCKY & MANAGE TO WIN TWO OUT OF THREE GAMES WHICH USUALLY IS EQUAL TO ONE OR TWO SIX-PACKS A NIGHT.

I'VE BEEN SPENDING EVERY EVENING WITH

ALEA, THOUGH WE HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING REALLY EXCITING. WE WENT TO SEE "RUNAWAY TRAIN" THE OTHER DAY & GOOFED AROUND AT THE TYRONE SQUARE MALL. WE STOPPED AT 'HOT SAM'S' FOR HOT SOFT PRETZELS TOPPED WITH CHEDDAR CHEESE & PIZZA SAUCE WHICH WERE GREAT.

WE ALSO RENTED THE VIDEO "EATING RAGS" WHICH WAS HILARIOUS. IT WAS ABOUT A POLISH COUPLE WHO NEEDED MONEY TO BUY A RESTAURANT & TRIED TO GET IT BY ADVERTISING TO DO KINKY SEX & THEN MURDERING THEIR CUSTOMERS & ROLLING THEM & THEN HAVING A MIDDLEMAN DISPOSE OF THE BODIES AT A DOG FOOD FACTORY.

I'VE BEEN WORKING AT FOTOMAT SINCE FRIDAY & I HOPE I GET OUT OF HERE SOON. I'VE BEEN FILING & FILE SEARCHING THE WHOLE TIME I'VE BEEN HERE & I'D REALLY LIKE TO DO SOMETHING ELSE. BUT IT'S BEEN NICE SINCE IT'S JUST SLIGHTLY OVER A MILE FROM HOME.

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1-22-86

YET ANOTHER SATISFYING YET UNNOTABLE DAY

I'M ONCE AGAIN FILING, UNFILING, & FILLING PERSONNEL FOLDERS AT FOTOMAT. TODAY ISN'T TOO BAD, THOUGH. AT LEAST IT'S A DEFINITE IMPROVEMENT OVER PURGING FILES, AS TAMMY & I DID YESTERDAY. THAT WAS BORING & REQUIRED CONCENTRATION — A DIFFICULT TASK INDEED.

TODAY I'VE BEEN ABLE TO LET MY MIND WANDER MUCH AS I DO WHEN CYCLING THROUGH THE FLATLANDS & SO I'M QUITE CONTENT. I CERTAINLY HOPE I GET A CHANCE TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT ONCE IN A WHILE. I DON'T MIND MAKING MINIMUM WAGE, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO LEARN SOMETHING AS WELL.

I GOT THE IMPRESSION AFTER TALKING WITH MY SUPERVISOR, MARY WILLIAMS, THAT I COULD BE HERE FOR A MONTH OR MORE DOING ODD JOBS. I'LL HAVE TO WORK ON CONVINCING THEM TO TURN ME LOOSE STRAIGHTENING UP THEIR 'ARCHIVES'. AT LEAST I'D BE BUSY ALL

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DAY & BE AWAY FROM ALL THE FLAKEY PEOPLE IN TIES & DRESSES IN THE OFFICE.

AREA & I SPENT LAST NIGHT WATCHING A VIDEO (A 'THIEF OF HEARTS'). TONIGHT'S LAUNDRY & WALK THE DOGS (BROWN DOG & COURTNEY) NIGHT & WE'LL ALSO POLISH OFF THE SPAGHETTI LEFT OVER FROM OUR BIG FEED ON MONDAY.

1-24-86

I'M CLEANING UP THE ARCHIVES TODAY AS I HOPED I COULD.

MY BOSS, SHARON TRGO (PRONOUNCED TURGO), GAVE ME SOME RATHER DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS WHICH I'VE SIMPLIFIED TO "IF IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT". THERE'S NO SINCE WORRYING ABOUT BEING PERFECT WHEN GETTING PAID \$375/HR.

I'VE BEEN REBUKED BY HER ONCE ALREADY FOR TOSSING OUT "TERM" (TERMINATION) FILES WITHOUT HER BLESSING, BUT SHE & I BOTH KNOW THAT IT WAS O.K. FOR ME TO DO THAT.

I SHOULD PROBABLY SLOW DOWN & TAKE IT

EASY (THOUGH I'M NOT WORKING UP MUCH OF A SWEAT NOW), BUT I DON'T WANT TO MAKE A CAREER OF WORKING FOR FOTOMAT. THE WEATHER'S WARMING UP AGAIN; I'D LIKE TO WORK 5 OR 10 MILES FROM HOME SO I CAN AT LEAST ENJOY IT ON MY WAY TO & FROM WORK.

AND THERE'S A LOT TO BE SAID FOR HAVING A DAY OFF DURING THE WEEK, TOO. I HAVE A HARD TIME KEEPING UP MY JOURNAL, WRITING LETTERS, READING, & STUDYING SPANISH & FRENCH WHEN I WORK AS OFTEN AS I HAVE BEEN.

RIGHT NOW I'M SITTING IN THE PARKING LOT AT THE REAR OF FOTOMAT. I'VE LOADED THE DUMPSTER WITH FILES & AM WAITING FOR A STANDBY PICKUP BY THE GARBAGE MAN. THAT'S WHERE I RELOAD THE DUMPSTER, AFTER IT'S EMPTIED, ~~RELOAD~~ WITH CASES OF FILES THAT I'VE STACKED OUTSIDE IT. I'VE BEEN SITTING IN THE SUN WAITING FOR AN HOUR & FIFTEEN MINUTES SO FAR.

2-6-86

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I GUESS IT'S TIME ONCE AGAIN TO UPDATE THE OLD JOURNAL.

I'M STILL WORKING AT FOTOMAT DOING THE SAME OLD STUFF: FILING, REORGANIZING & CLEANING. I'M ALSO STILL WORKING FIVE DAYS A WEEK, INSTEAD OF FOUR AS I'D LIKE, BUT I MAY BE LEAVING SOONER THAN EXPECTED, SO IT'S BEST TO EARN WHAT I CAN WHILE I HAVE THE CHANCE.

I MOVED OUT OF THE EFFICIENCY AT THE END OF THE MONTH & MOVED IN WITH ALEA (THOUGH I'D BEEN NEARLY LIVING THERE FOR TWO ~~WEEKS~~ WEEKS ANYWAY). BOB FERNANDEZ, MY LANDLORD, GAVE ME ALL OF MY DEPOSIT BACK & ALSO SUGGESTED THAT HE MIGHT PAY ME TO SHOW THE APTS. HE HAS FOR RENT, THOUGH HE HASN'T FOLLOWED THROUGH ON THAT. HE LIVES IN CLEARWATER & DRIVING OUT TO ST. PETE IS COSTING HIM A LOT OF TIME & MONEY.

I STARTED TO CHECK INTO POSSIBLE MODE OF TRAVEL TO EUROPE LAST WEEK.

WAS CONVINCED THAT FLYING TO LUXEMBOURG,
VIA ICELANDIC AIR FOR \$199 WAS THE
BEST DEAL AROUND. HOWEVER SINCE THEN
I'VE MET A PUERTO-RICAN NAMED NIGER
WHO EXPECTS TO BE GETTING A JOB SHORTLY
SAILING A 56 FOOT SAILBOAT TO BARCELONA
SOON ; HE SAYS I COULD CREW FOR HIM
IF IT ALL PANS OUT. HE ALSO SAID
THERE IS A BOAT THAT NEEDS TO GO TO THE
CANARY ISLANDS AS WELL WHICH IS A
BETTER PROSPECT FOR ME, AS IT WOULD
ASSURE ME OF A CHANCE TO VISIT MOROCCO
& PORTUGAL.

NIGER ALSO WORKS FOR MANPOWER ;
HE HAS JUST RETURNED FROM WORKING
FOR THREE YEARS IN VENEZUELA AS A
WAREHOUSE MANAGER. HE CO-OWNS A
RACING SAILBOAT HERE IN ST. PETE. HE'S
~~BEEN~~ WORKING FOR MANPOWER TO STAY BUSY
UNTIL THE DELIVERY JOB COMES THROUGH.

NOTHING EXCITING HAS HAPPENED LATELY.

ALEA ; I GO TO THE MOVIES A LOT ;
WE FINALLY MANAGED TO MAKE IT TO
TAMPA LAST WEEKEND. WE DIDN'T GET
TO SEE THE YBOR CITY MUSEUM AS PLANNED,
BUT DID GET TO SEE THE USS REQUIN,
A WWII SUBMARINE ; THE HENRY B.
PLANT MUSEUM AT U. OF TAMPA WHICH
HAD ROOMS DEPICTING THE BUILDING IN THE
DAYS THAT IT WAS THE TAMPA HOTEL.

ALEA WAS FIRED FROM HER JOB ON
MONDAY. I SUSPECT HER BOSS KNEW
SHE WAS ABOUT TO QUIT ANYWAY. SHE
SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND A JOB RIGHT
AWAY ; HAS ALREADY HAD SOME GOOD
INTERVIEWS.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON NIGER ; I ARE
GOING TO CHECK OUT A VIETNAMESE
RESTAURANT. SATURDAY ; /OR SUNDAY
ALEA ; I ARE GOING TO THE GASPARILLA
FESTIVAL IN TAMPA. NEXT WEEK I'M GOING
TO START GETTING MY SHOTS ; BUYING THE
REST OF THE GEAR I'LL NEED TO GET

ON THE ROAD AGAIN.

ALEA GOT A JOB! SHE'S MASSAGING
GLOBAL HOME HEALTH IN NEW PORT
RICHEY.

WE WENT OUT TO CELEBRATE & HAD
DINNER AT BT. BONES. TO THE BEST
OF MY RECOLLECTION IT'S THE FIRST TIME
I'VE GONE OUT FOR STEAK IN ABOUT SIX
YEARS. I HAD A SIRLOIN SMOTHERED
IN ONIONS & MUSHROOMS & A GREAT
SALAD & HOT BREAD.

YA-HOO!

2-8-86

NIGER (P.S.) I WENT TO LUNCH AT
KIMBO VIET-THAI RESTAURANT ON FRIDAY.
I HAD PORK LOIN BAMBOO, A VERY GOOD,
VERY SPICY DISH.

I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT NIGER IS
SINCERE ABOUT GETTING ME ON WHEN (IF)
HE GETS HIS DELIVERY JOB. HE'LL BE
TALKING WITH HIS FRIEND THIS WEEKEND

TO SEE IF HE CAN FIND OUT WHEN WE ARE
SAILING.

I'VE SPENT THE PAST TWO DAYS TYING
UP LOOSE ENDS & PREPARING TO LEAVE.
I COULDN'T FIND ANY OF THE CLOTHES
I NEEDED AROUND TOWN, SO I HAD TO
MAIL ORDER IT ALL. IT SHOULD BE HERE
WITHIN A WEEK & A HALF - HOPEFULLY I
WON'T LEAVE BEFORE THEN.

MONDAY MORNING I'LL START MY
IMMUNIZATIONS. I DOUBT IF I'LL GET
THEM FINISHED IN TIME, SO HOPEFULLY
THEY CAN TELL ME WHERE TO FINISH
THEM ONCE I'M IN EUROPE.

ALEA & I WENT TO SARASOTA
TODAY TO SEE THE RINGLING MUSEUM OF
ART WHICH HAD A DISPLAY OF YOUSEF
KARSH PHOTOGRAPHS.

THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A LOT OF MONEY
IN CIRCUSES FROM THE LOOKS OF THE MUSEUM
& RINGLING MANSION.

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WE STOPPED AT PAUL'S PIZZA/ SUBS FOR A STEAK SUB THAT CAN'T BE BEAT & ALSO PICKED UP SOME NEW SHOES FOR ME AT CAMPER'S GEAR, WHERE THE OWNER LET US PLAY WITH HIS PET RACCOON, ROCKY.

I NEVER REALIZED THAT RACCOONS ACTUALLY HAVE "FINGERS" ON THEIR PAWS, NOT JUST CLAWS. IT'S EASY TO UNDERSTAND HOW THEY CAN UNZIP BAGS & OPEN DOORS, ETC...

(2-14-86)

I'M READY TO LEAVE AT ANY TIME, BUT STILL NO WORD. IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THINGS MAY NOT MATERIALIZE AS PLANNED. IF WE DON'T GET A BOAT TO EUROPE, NIGER MAY HAVE A DELIVERY IN THE CARIBBEAN THAT I CAN CREEP ON BEFORE I FLY.

I GOT TWO OF MY SHOTS ON MONDAY: YELLOW FEVER (\$11) & TETANUS (\$5). I WAS GLAD THEY WERE RELATIVELY INEXPENSIVE.

I RENTED A PROJECTOR ON MONDAY & SHOWED MY SLIDES TO ~~THE~~ GRANDMA, AUNT

PAT & ALEA. IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN TOO BAD IF AVUNT PAT COULD HAVE SHUT UP A BIT MORE OFTEN. AS IT WAS IT TOOK ABOUT TWO HOURS TO SELECTIVELY SHOW THE SLIDES & THE COMBINATION OF MY BOREDOM & HER DRONING ON REALLY STARTED GETTING TO ME.

I'M FINALLY GETTING THE REAL STORY ABOUT THE SAILEBOAT DELIVERY. TOM, ONE OF THE OWNERS OF LA GRINGA SAILING SERVICE JUST MAILED OFF A BID TO DELIVER A BOAT TO THE CANARY ISLANDS OFF THE NW. COAST OF AFRICA. HE BID VERY LOW DUE TO NIGER & I BEING WILLING NOT TO BE PAID & MY NOT NEEDING A RETURN PASSAGE.

NIGER IS VERY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT OUR CHANCES OF GETTING IT SINCE TOM WANTS VERY MUCH TO GO. HE THINKS WE HAVE AN 85% CHANCE OF GETTING IT BASED ON PAST LOW BIDS.

FOR VALENTINES, ALEA GAVE ME THREE BOOKS: "MADNESS & CIVILIZATION", "THE PRINCE", & "ZEN & THE ART OF MOTORCYCLE MAINTENANCE".

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DAVID BACON
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	(813) 821-3128

NIGER V. PUJAN
212 1/2 BEACHDRIVE SE. APT #1
ST. PETE, FL 33705
(813) 821-5011

MORE BOOKS

26. HOW TO RELIEVE YOUR ACHING BACK
27. PORTNOY'S COMPLAINT
28. FEAR OF FLYING
29. SIDDHARTHA
30. ~~THE ICEBERG~~ ICE!
31. CASTLES IN THE SAND
32. LOVE
33. SAGA OF A WAYWARD SAILOR
34. CATCHER IN THE RYE
35. JUPITER'S TRAVELS
36. JAMES HERRIOTT'S YORKSHIRE
37. ~~THE~~ ADRIFF
38. DOVE

10145

16

60870

101450

16232

STATISTICS

WORN OUT TIRES

1. NEAR FAIRPLAY, CO
2. EVANSVILLE, OH
3. NEAR ANTIGONISH, NS
4. NEAR DARTMOUTH, NS
5. N. MYRTLE BEACH, SC

FLAT TIRES

1. CADWELL, ID (F)
 2. NEAR STANLEY, ID (F)
 3. NEAR KETCHUM, ID (F)
 4. ? (R)
 5. NEAR NORRIS CITY, IL (R)
 6. ROCKVILLE, MD (R)
 7. OSTEEN, FL (R)
 899. ST. PETE, FL (F)
- BROKEN SPOKES

FERRIES TAKEN

1. SEATTLE - WINSLOW
2. PT TOWNSEND - KEYSTONE
3. ANACORTES - LOPEZ IS.
4. LOPEZ IS. - SAN JUAN IS.
5. SAN JUAN IS. - ORCAS IS.
6. ORCAS IS. - SIDNEY, B.C.
7. VICTORIA, B.C. - PT. ANGELES
8. SANDUSKY, OH - LEAMINGTON, ONT
9. NEAR PICTON, ONT.
10. SAGUENAY FJORD, QUE
11. BAIE COMEAU, QUE - MATANE, QUE
12. CAPE TORMENTINE, N.B. TO P.E.I.

BOOKS

16. THUMB TRIPPING ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
17. THE UGLY AMERICAN
18. TM : DISCOVERING INNER ENERGY; OVERCOMING STRESS
19. ^{THE} MOSQUITO COAST
20. PASSAGES
21. REAL MEN DON'T EAT QUICHE
22. THE RESTAURANT AT THE END OF THE ~~UNIVERSE~~ ^{UNIVERSE}
23. BULLFINCH'S MYTHOLOGY
24. AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A YOGI
25. GETTING EVEN

FERRIES TAKEN (CONT.)

13. P.E.I. TO CARIBOU PT, NS
14. NEAR NORTH SYDNEY, NS
15. DARTMOUTH, NS TO HALIFAX, NS
16. DIGBY, NS TO SAINT JOHN, NB
17. CAPE HATTERAS IS, NC TO OCRACOEKE IS, NC
18. OCRACOEKE IS, NC TO CEDAR IS, N.C.

This is part of a series of **seven** handwritten journals maintained by Steve Malone during a year and a half of bicycle touring solo throughout North America and Western Europe in 1985 and 1986.

A list of names found in **Volume 4** of this set of journals:

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Leah Overman | 10. Eva Malone | 19. Tina Bacon |
| 2. Maureen Maart | 11. Pat Waltman | 20. Alea Sando |
| 3. Doug Sensenig | 12. Dan Bates | 21. Sharon Trgo |
| 4. Jenny Bell | 13. Rick Tamulonis | 22. Bob Fernandez |
| 5. Stan Thompson | 14. Jimmy Woods | 23. Niger Pijuan |
| 6. Delores Thompson | 15. Mike Malone | 24. Brian Harrington |
| 7. Jane Thompson | 16. Rob Malone | 25. Roger Neyer |
| 8. Gerry George | 17. Cheryl Malone | |
| 9. Tadakazu Izumi | 18. Dave Bacon | |